

**SOUL EATER**

*Dest...*

**23**

**CHERRY PEPSI**





I wonder  
where...

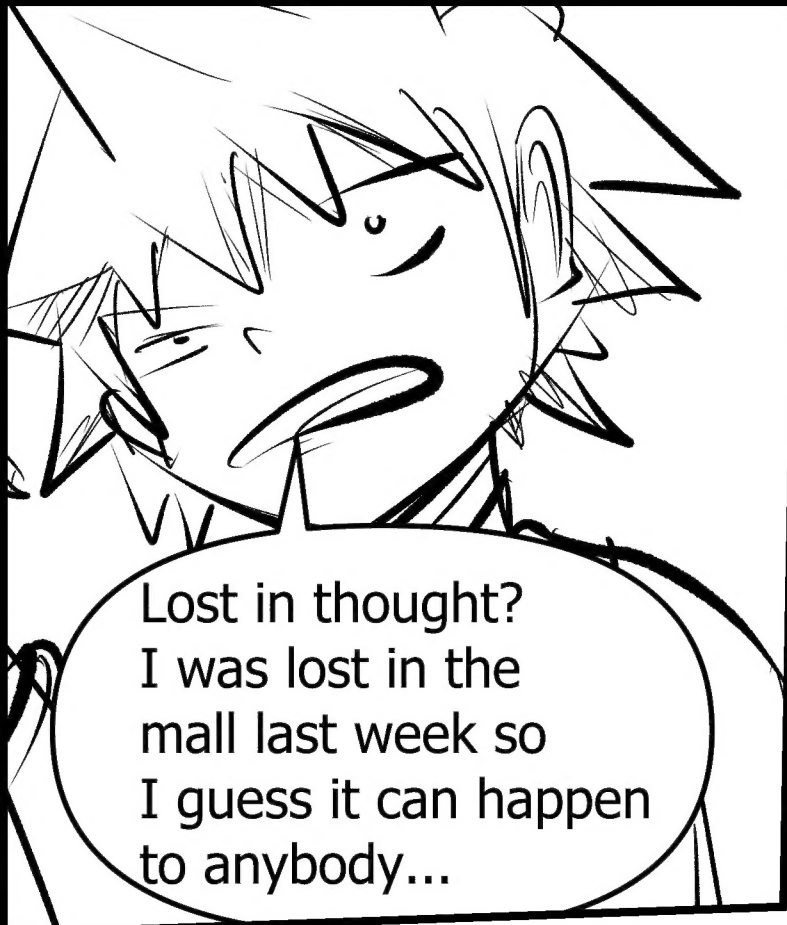
Hey,  
what are  
ya staring at?



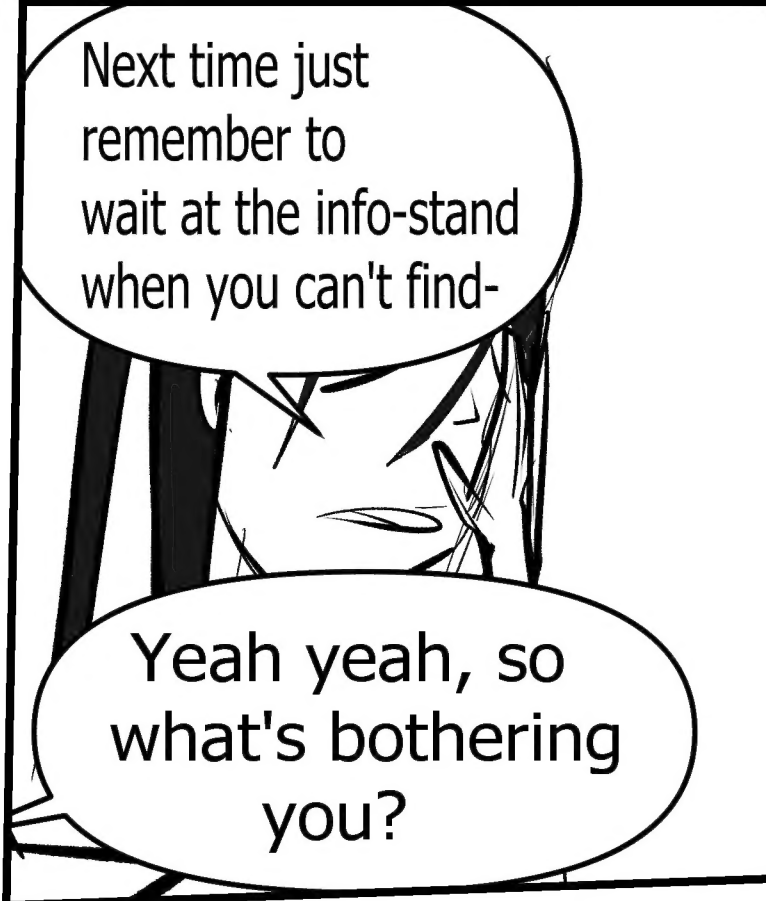
Cause if  
you are  
looking for  
greatness,  
just turn  
around!

huh?

Sorry...  
I was  
just lost  
in thought...

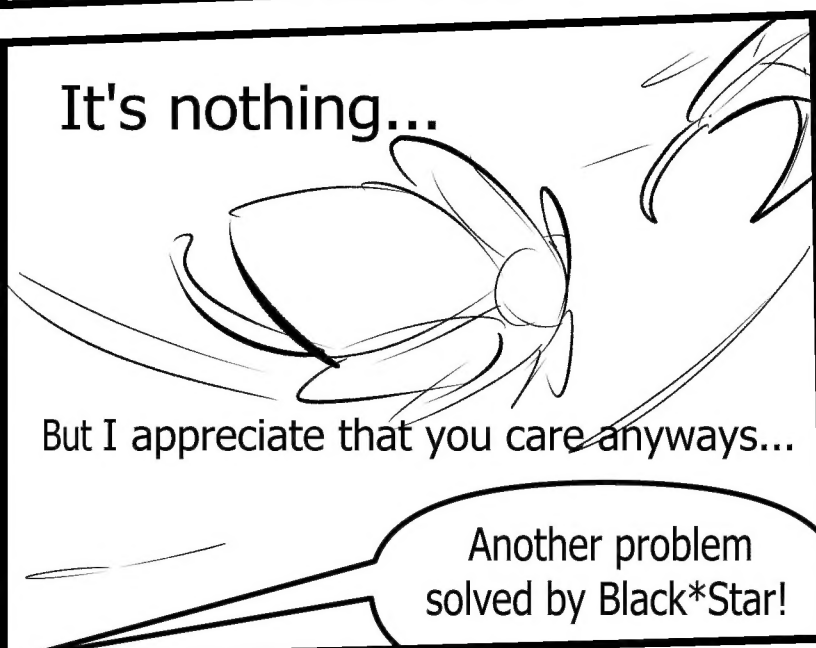


Lost in thought?  
I was lost in the  
mall last week so  
I guess it can happen  
to anybody...



Next time just  
remember to  
wait at the info-stand  
when you can't find-

Yeah yeah, so  
what's bothering  
you?



It's nothing...

But I appreciate that you care anyways...

Another problem  
solved by Black\*Star!



Yeah...

Just feel a  
bit homesick today  
for some reason...



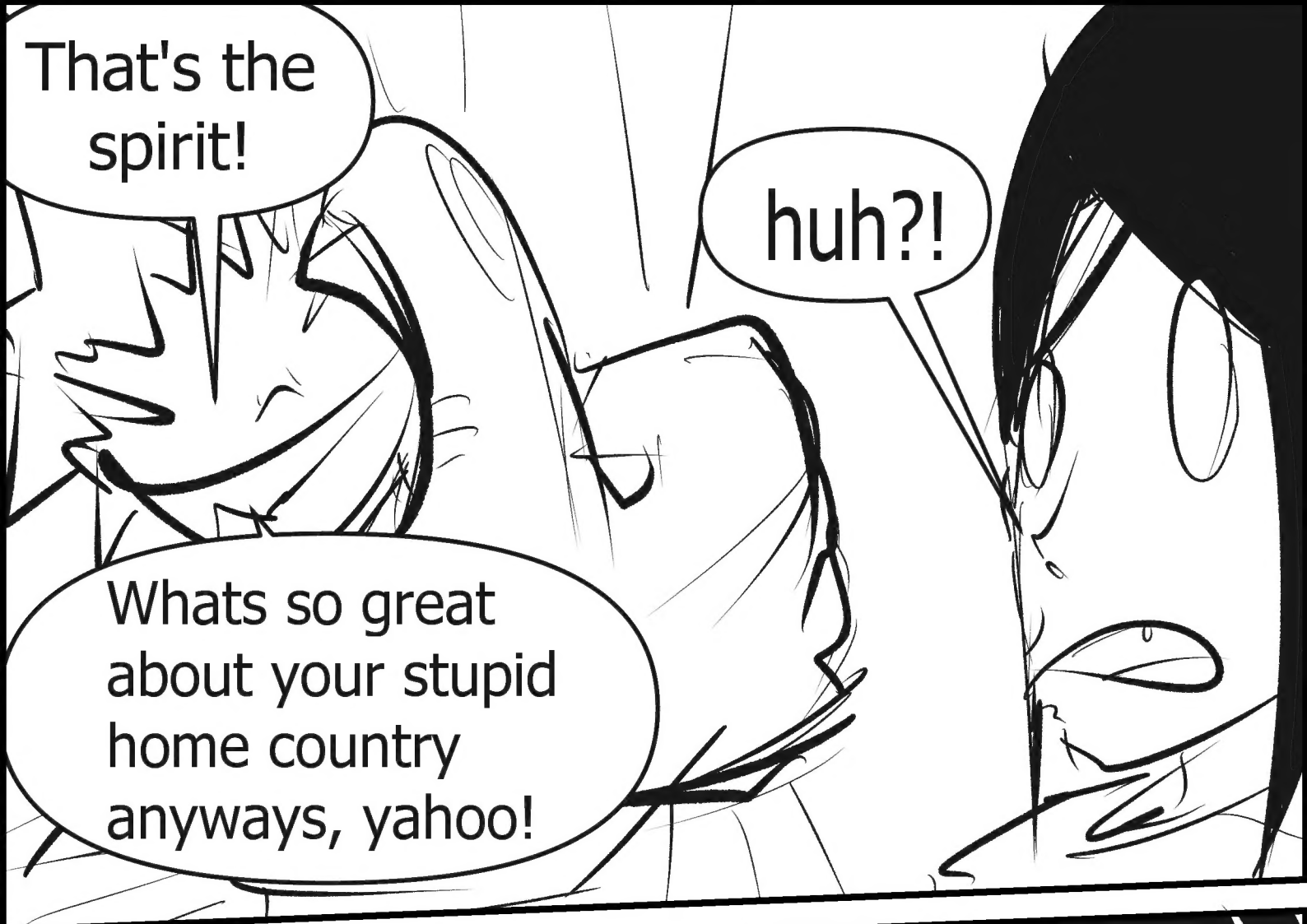
Eh, can't just  
Stein prescribe  
you some  
antibiotics  
or whatever  
they are  
called?

Sadly the brand  
I used  
as a child  
isn't available here...



But it's probably  
stupid to feel bad  
because of a reason  
like that...





That's the spirit!

huh?!

Whats so great about your stupid home country anyways, yahoo!



Everything we need is here in Death City!

And we travel the world for our missions anyways


You don't know what you are talking!-



Hold on Tsubaki,

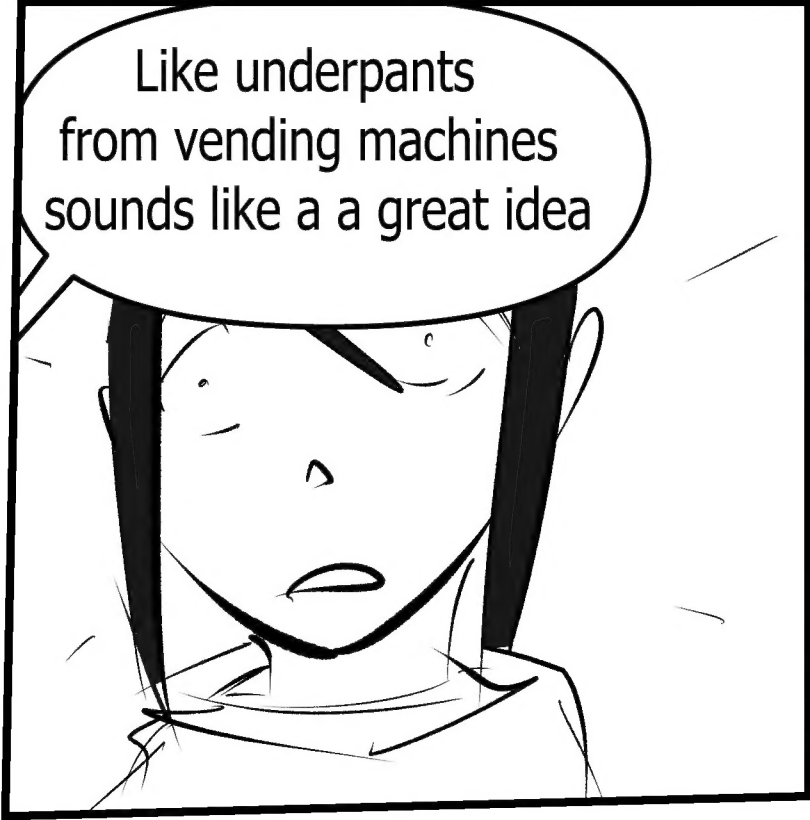
I'm just trying to help you-

BY MAKING A MOCKERY OUT OF MY HOMELAND?!!




I'm not saying  
there isn't any  
cool stuff back  
in Japan

That's  
right-

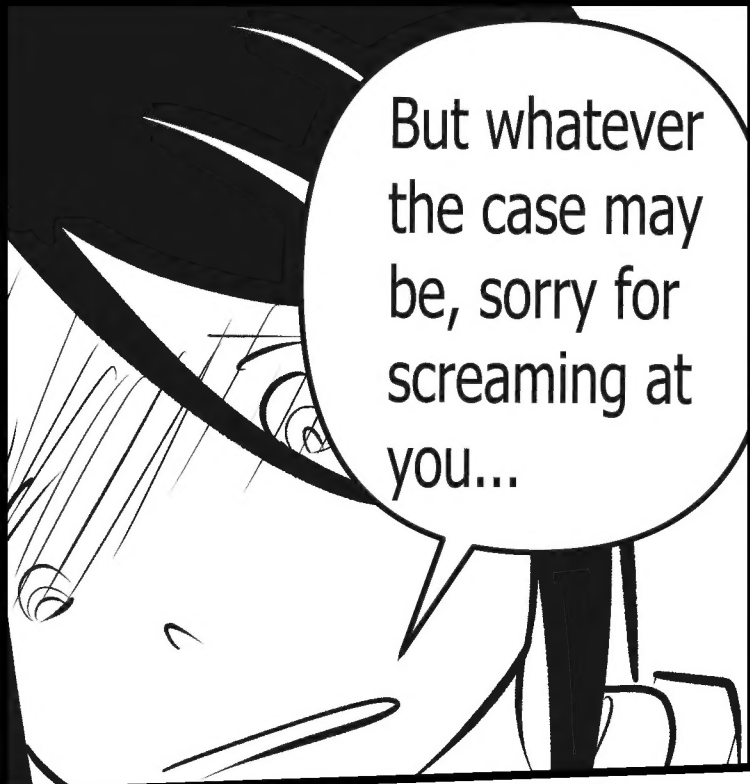


Like underpants  
from vending machines  
sounds like a a great idea



That's just  
an urban  
legend!!!

At least that's  
what I tell  
myself...



But whatever  
the case may  
be, sorry for  
screaming at  
you...



Tch, don't worry,  
my ears needed some  
sound wave attack  
training anyways!

besides...



Anybody would be  
stressed out if they  
had to meet up with him

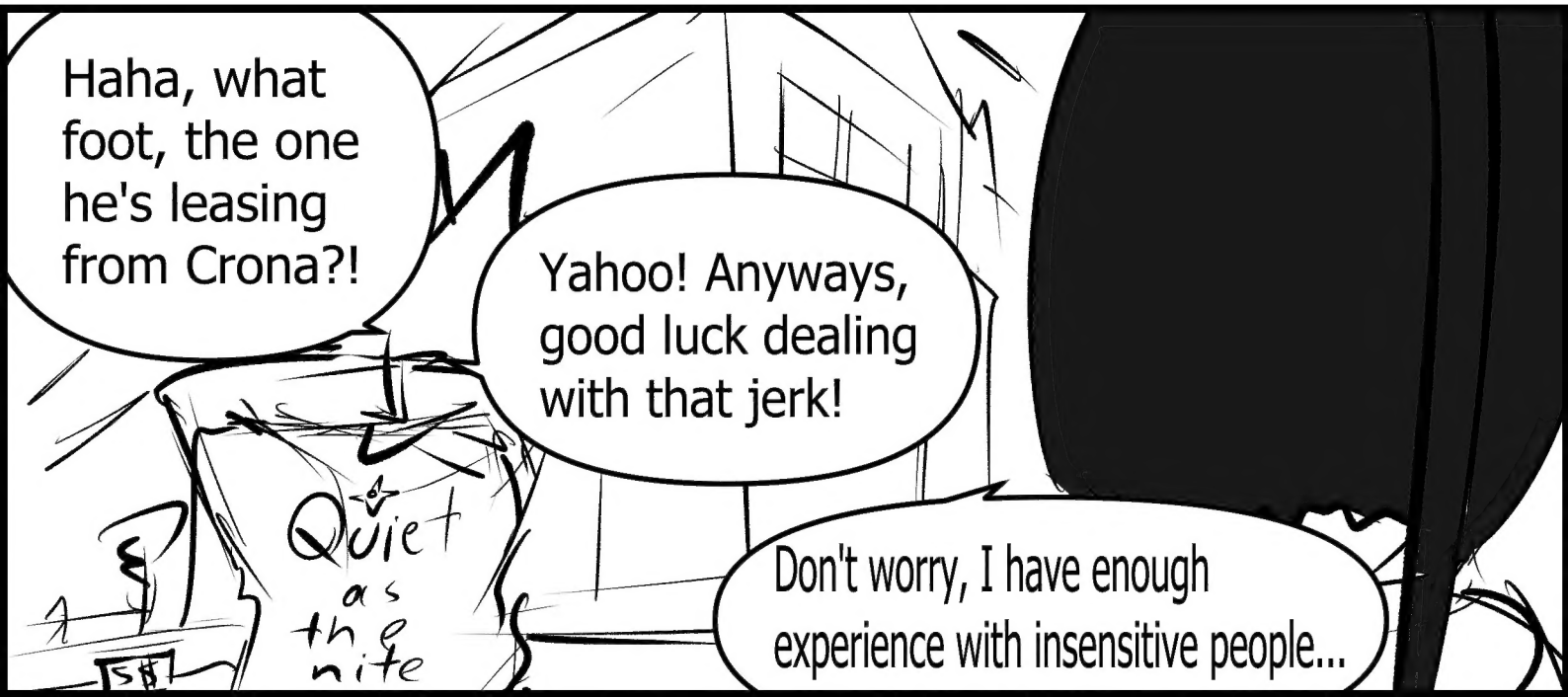
Can't even stand looking  
at that candy-muncher!

You know that you  
don't have to pretend  
to be his friend?



I mean it: is there  
anybody more loud  
and obnoxious than  
that overgrown shrimp?

I think you started  
with the wrong foot  
with him...



Haha, what  
foot, the one  
he's leasing  
from Crona?!

Yahoo! Anyways,  
good luck dealing  
with that jerk!

Don't worry, I have enough  
experience with insensitive people...

Quiet  
as  
the  
nite

158

a few moments later...

Guipi, what a scumbag, hehe!

No no, he...

I think it's just difficult for him to get-

We ain't talking about the cookie jar on top of the fridge

That would be difficult to get for him hehe!

Hihi, come on Ragnarok, it's not nice to-

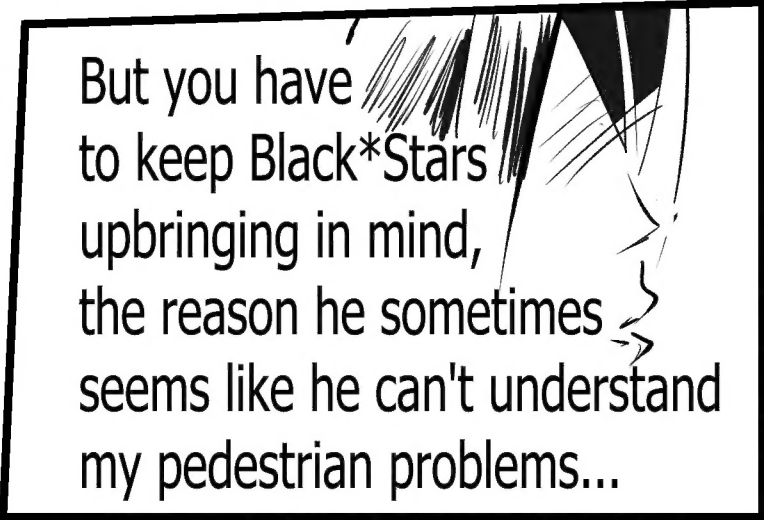
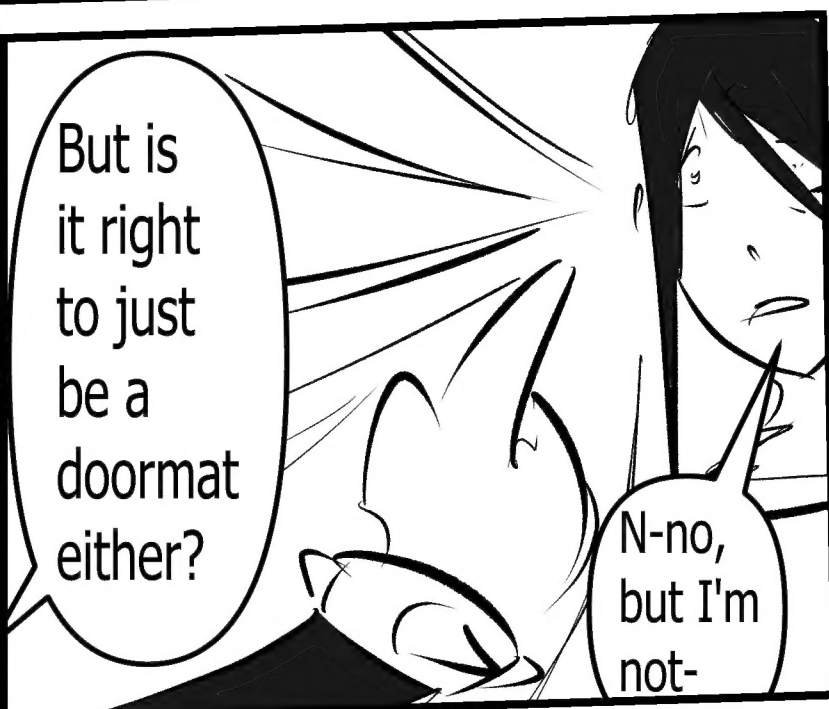
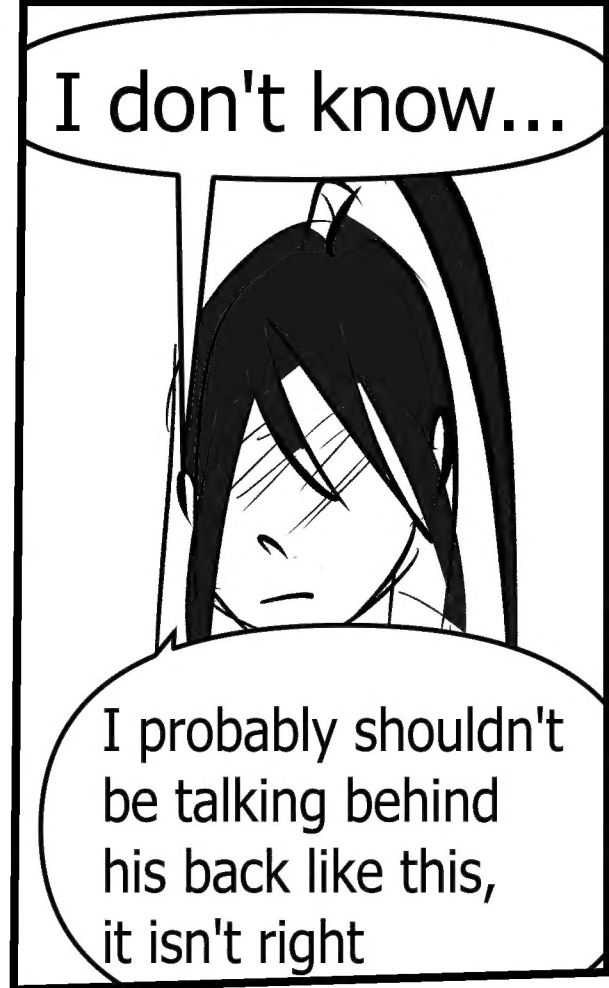
Make fun of once apearance? Hey, he does the same to me so whats the big deal, hehe?

Wait, I thought I omited that part...


Nah you did, I just put 2 and 2 together

Ups


Don't worry, your confirmation was more of a formality hehe









*His whole clan  
massacred...*




*And then being  
raised by the  
one's that did it...*



*My woes seem  
like nothing in  
comparison-*




Meh, who  
doesn't have  
a tragic backstory  
these days?




Like didn't  
even you-



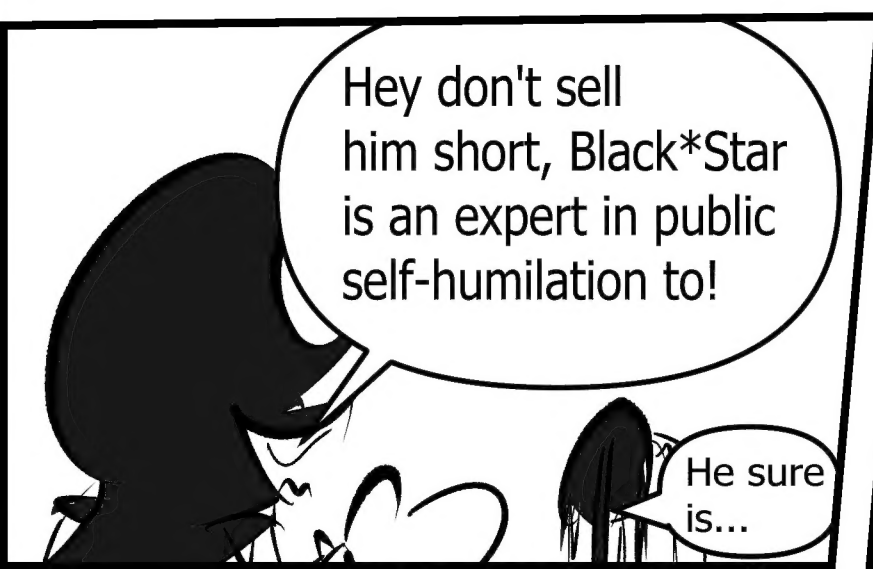
You  
know-



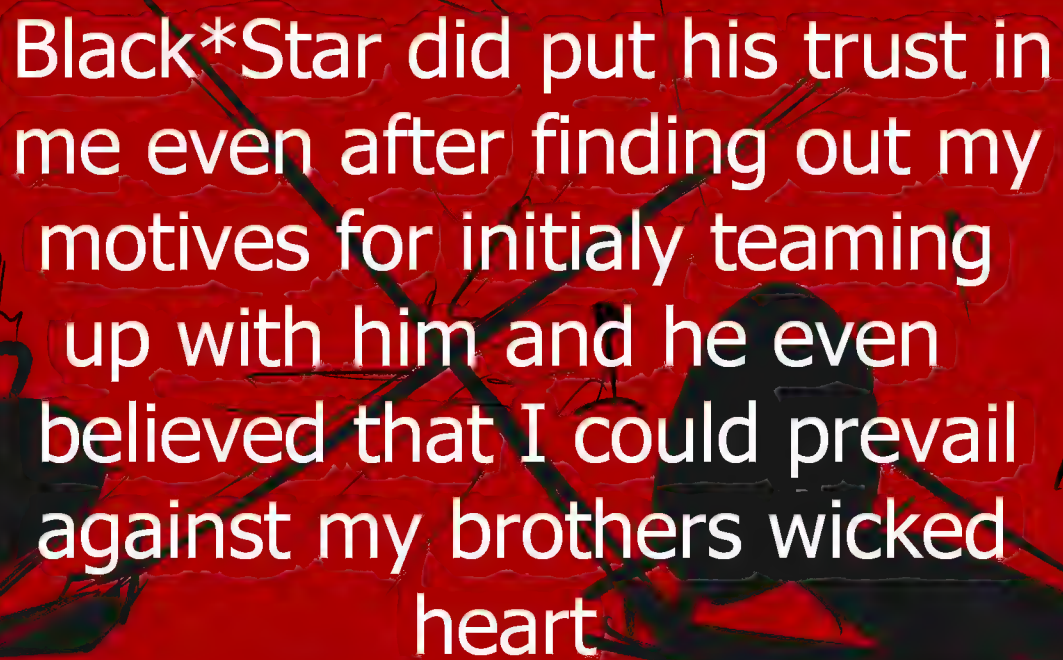
Yes I had  
to kill my  
own brother




Yeez yeah thanks for  
saying it yourself and not  
making me bring THAT  
up, hehe guipi!



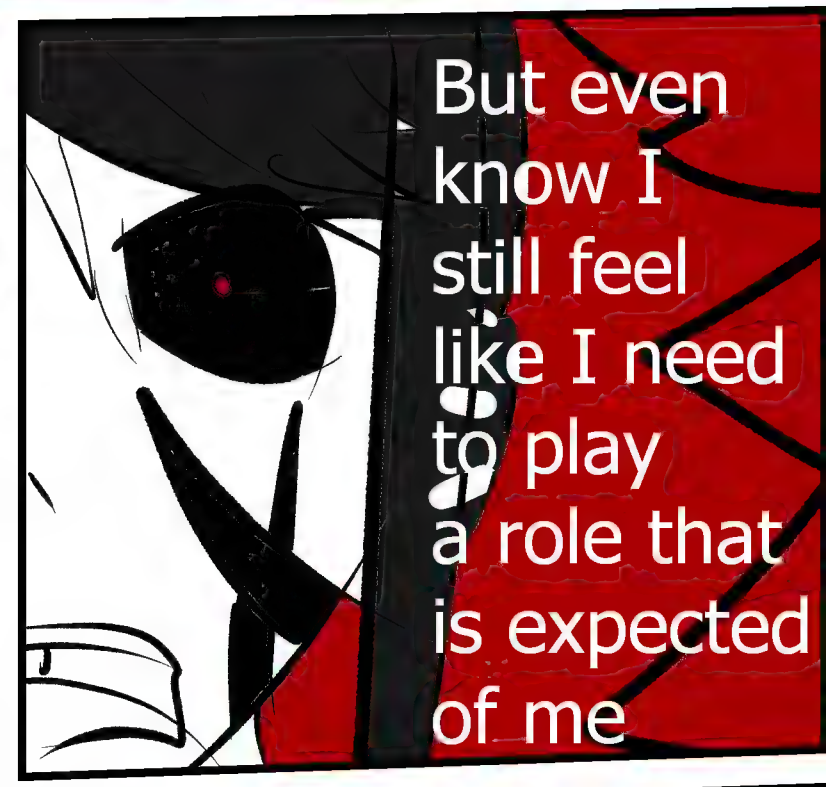




Black\*Star did put his trust in me even after finding out my motives for initially teaming up with him and he even believed that I could prevail against my brothers wicked heart



After all that was finished, everything should have been fine...



But even know I still feel like I need to play a role that is expected of me

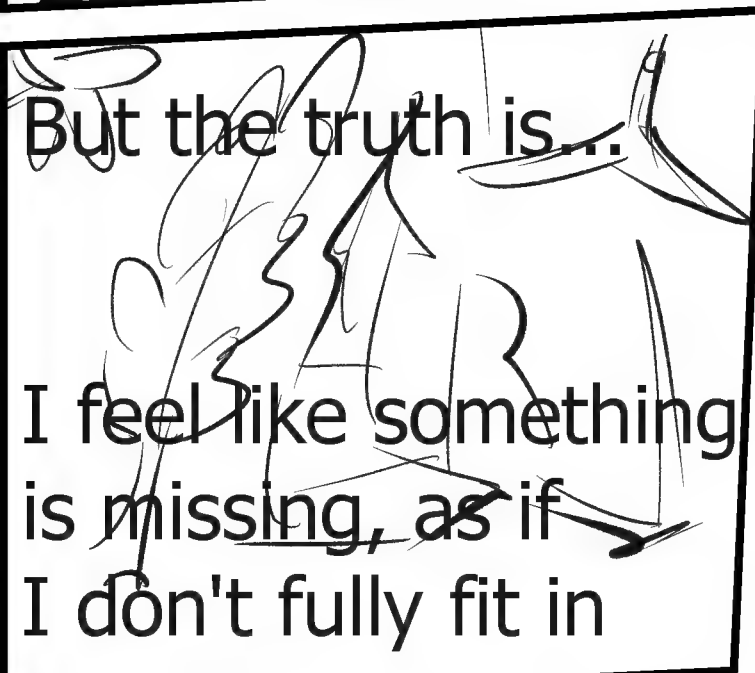


My mission is done...

I thought my duty was to payback Black\*Star, to help him reach his goals and become a death scythe..



Secretly  
I wished  
that by  
doing that  
I would  
become  
whole  
again



But the truth is...

I feel like something  
is missing, as if  
I don't fully fit in



Common Tsubaki,  
out of all the weirdos  
in our "friendgroup"  
you are the most "normal"  
one



I'm literally  
a black goop  
monster living  
in someones  
back, so why  
overthink it?




Don't sell yourself  
short Ragnarok, you  
aren't a monster, no  
mater your liquidity...

eh, th-thanks  
I guess...

But perhaps  
that is my  
problem..





"I'm to normal  
for you freaks",  
is that what ya  
mean?

Hehe guipi,  
maybe I really  
am a bad  
influence  
on you!

Guess we  
should stop  
hanging out  
before I corrupt  
you so much you  
start taking little  
kids lunch money!



Nonono,  
please don't!

What I  
meant is:

All of you are either tied to Death City  
or don't have anything holding you down  
at all



It's in the  
name



street walking  
bumming off



Raised  
in Death  
city



clan  
dead

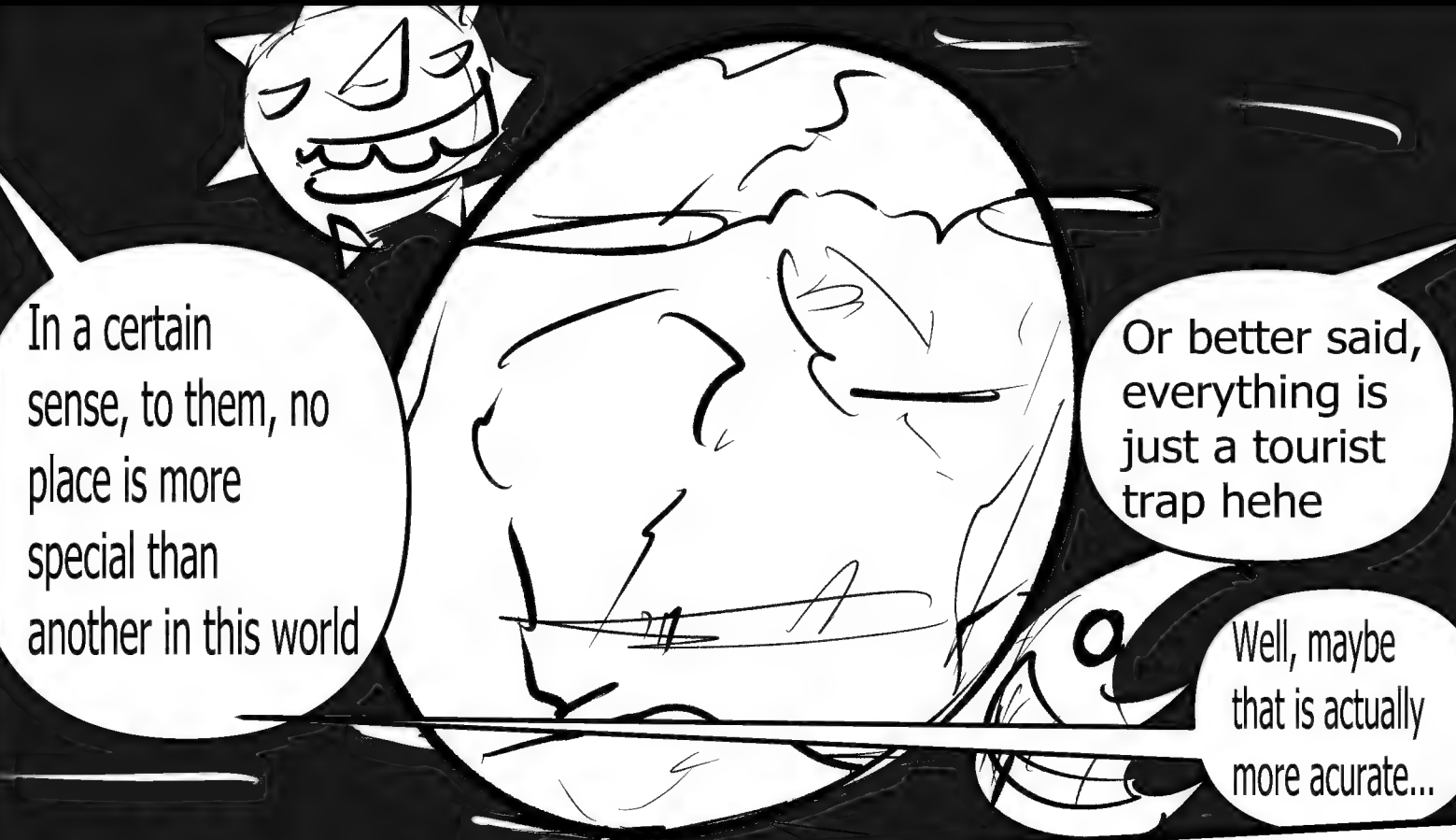


copy  
story



maybe not?  
probably hates  
his parents or  
something

Damn, you might  
be kinda right...



In a certain sense, to them, no place is more special than another in this world

Or better said, everything is just a tourist trap hehe

Well, maybe that is actually more accurate...

I don't fault them for it...

But it may explain why they don't really get it

"Just go to china town, they have sushi there Tsubaki"

Wow, kinda racist

Yeah, everyone knows that they only sell maki there

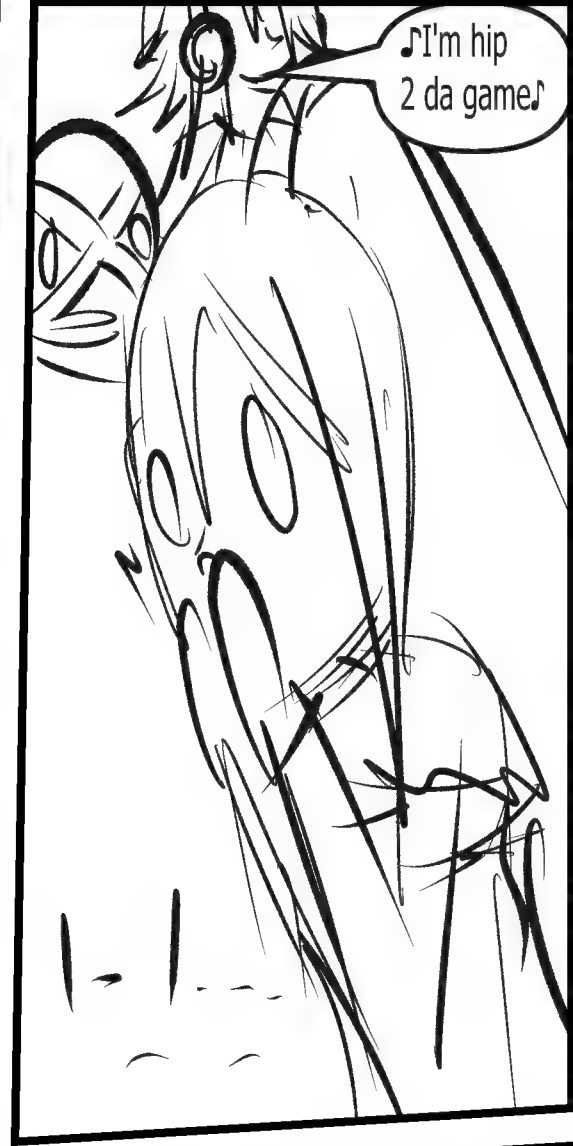
Fw hat?

"Ough, just wait till a mission takes you there, hur!"



No Maka, you stupid bookworm,

it's not the same to just stay for  
a few hours at a hotel in Tokyo,  
guess your fancy literature didn't  
prechew this factoid you cow!!!




♪I'm hip  
2 da games♪




I-I'm sorry, I-I  
don't know what  
got into me...

Nah I  
get it,  
calling  
her that  
just feels  
so natural,  
hehe



Just consider yourself lucky  
that he got headphones on

♪Right♪



Even I couldn't  
stop him from  
defending Makas  
honor hehe

Maybe I would  
deserve it, for  
saying something  
so horrible when  
I don't even know  
how her situation is  
right now...

Yeah, after that  
thing with her so  
called mama...

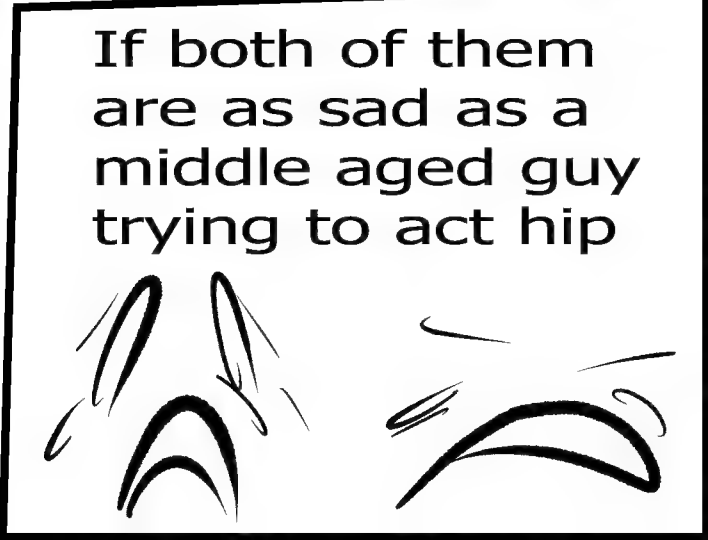
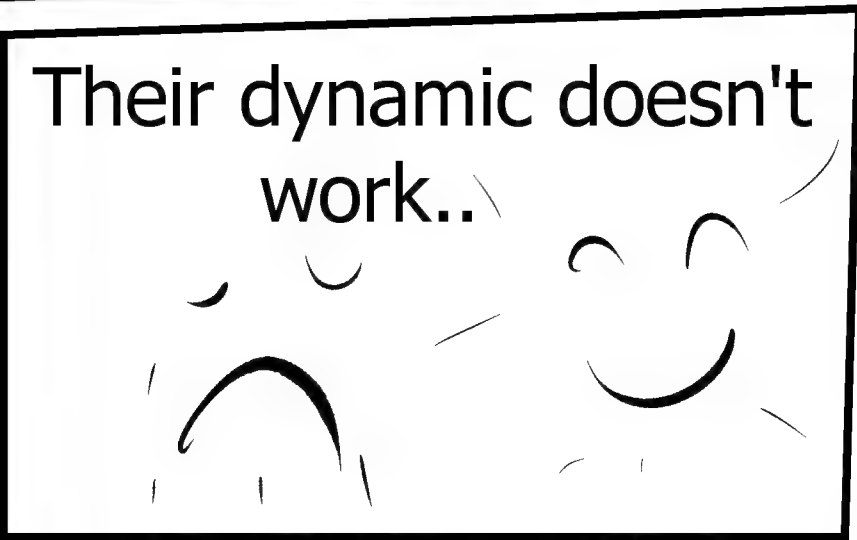
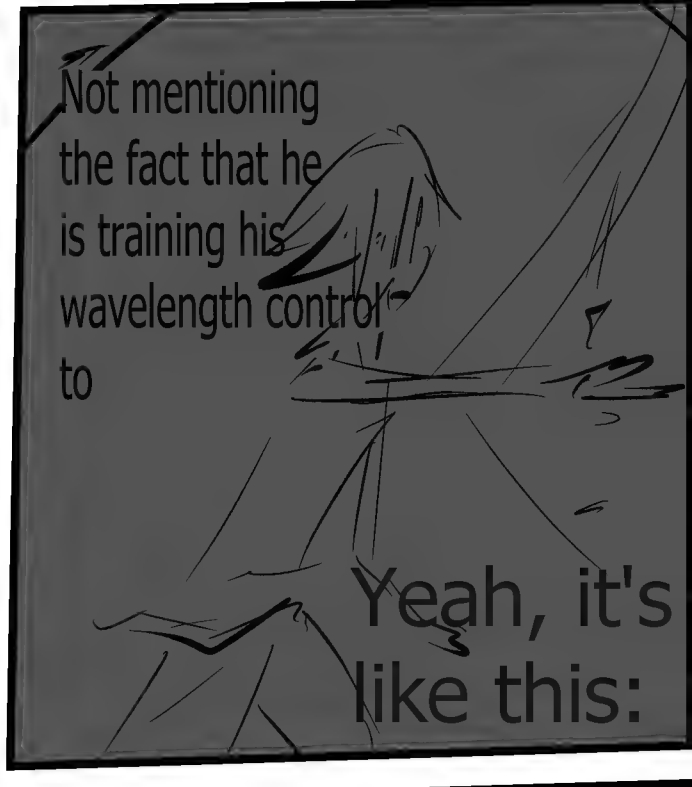
Crona said  
she seems  
to be doing  
better, and  
that guy  
is the opposite  
of an optimist,  
so she must  
be more than  
fine, I guess...


Still it is strange that  
she is missing school...

Wow, then she  
really is doing  
better, wish  
she would also  
slow down with  
the book reading,  
getting sick of  
carrying half a  
forrest around  
every day

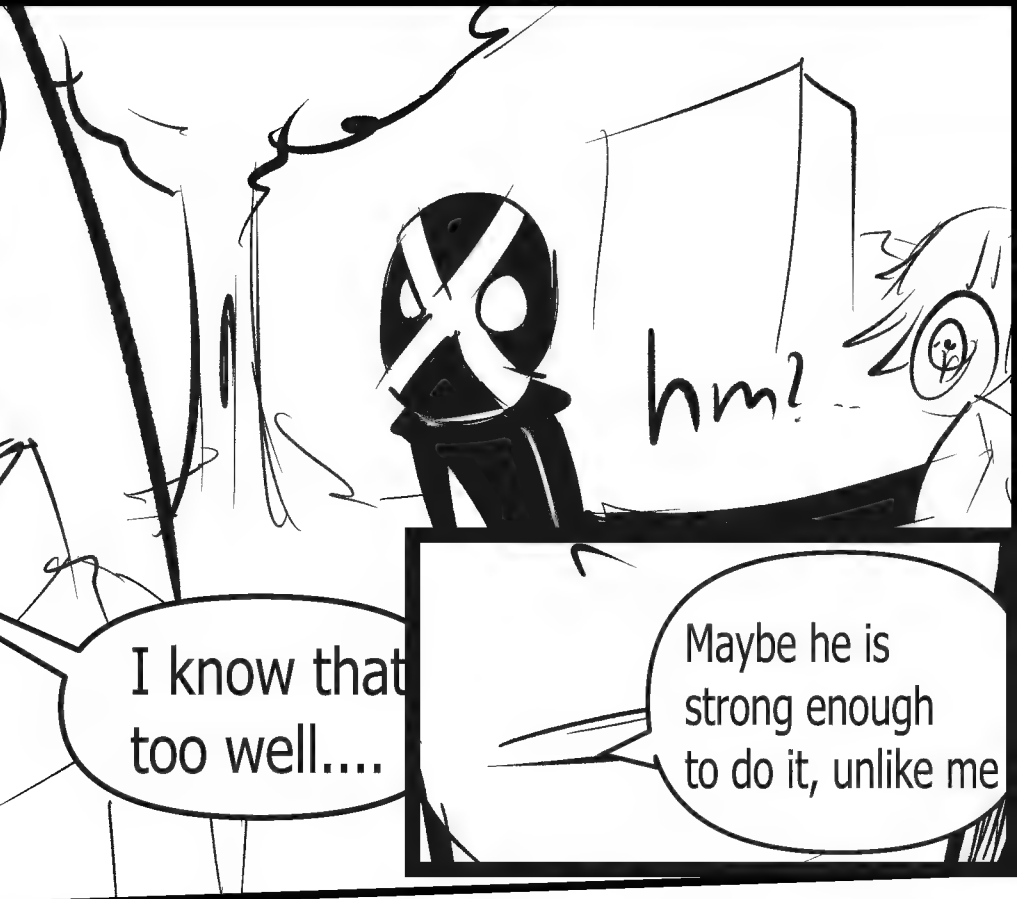
Once she even wore a hazmat  
suit while sick just to take a pop-quiz








He is compensating  
for her absense...



I know that  
too well....

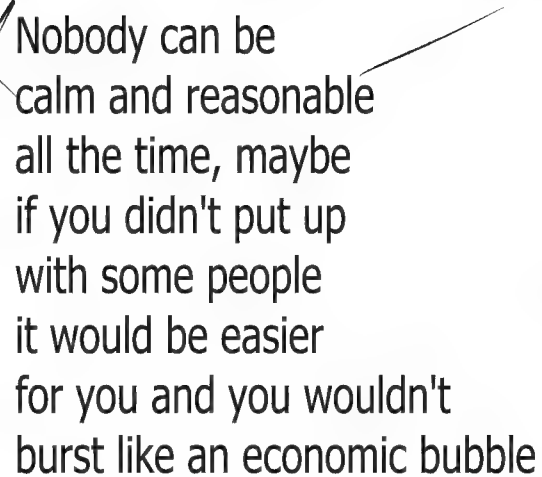
hm?

Maybe he is  
strong enough  
to do it, unlike me




Using "strong" and  
"Crona" in the same  
sentence hehe

listen Tsubaki:




Nobody can be  
calm and reasonable  
all the time, maybe  
if you didn't put up  
with some people  
it would be easier  
for you and you wouldn't  
burst like an economic bubble



Sometimes,  
I wish, but-

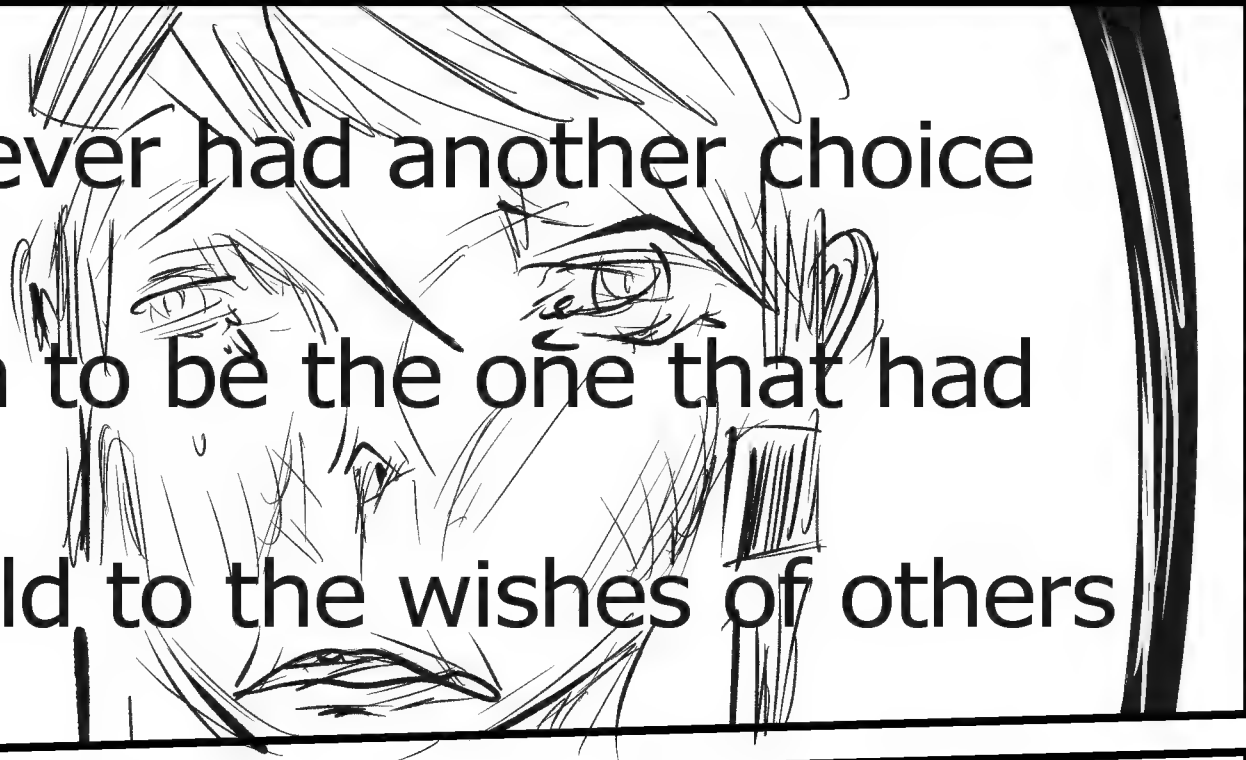


What,  
afraid  
you hurt  
someones  
feelings?

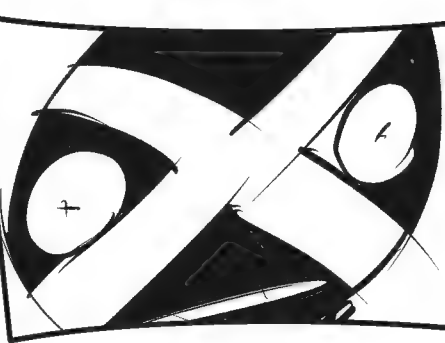


Partly that to, but  
more importantly,  
it's just that all my  
life...

I never had another choice  
than to be the one that had  
to yield to the wishes of others



Every Idea I have



every thought or feeling:  
it all just gets put to the side

At the end even  
killing my own  
brother...



leaving for the  
DWMA, all  
of it...

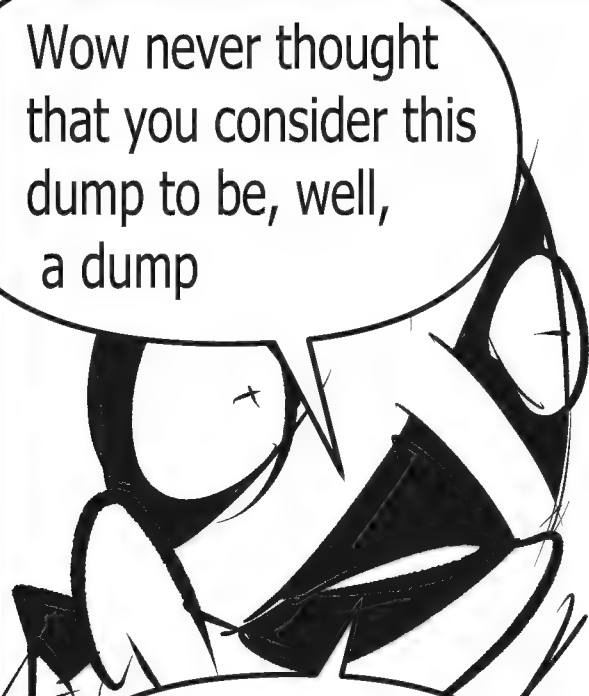
It was all  
expected  
of me to do



And now the reality that I  
have to accept is




being stuck  
in this desert



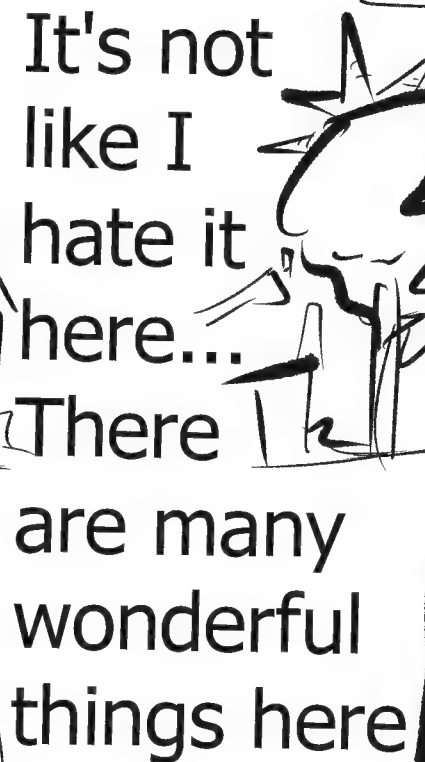
Wow never thought  
that you consider this  
dump to be, well,  
a dump




I mean the  
heat sucks,  
but-



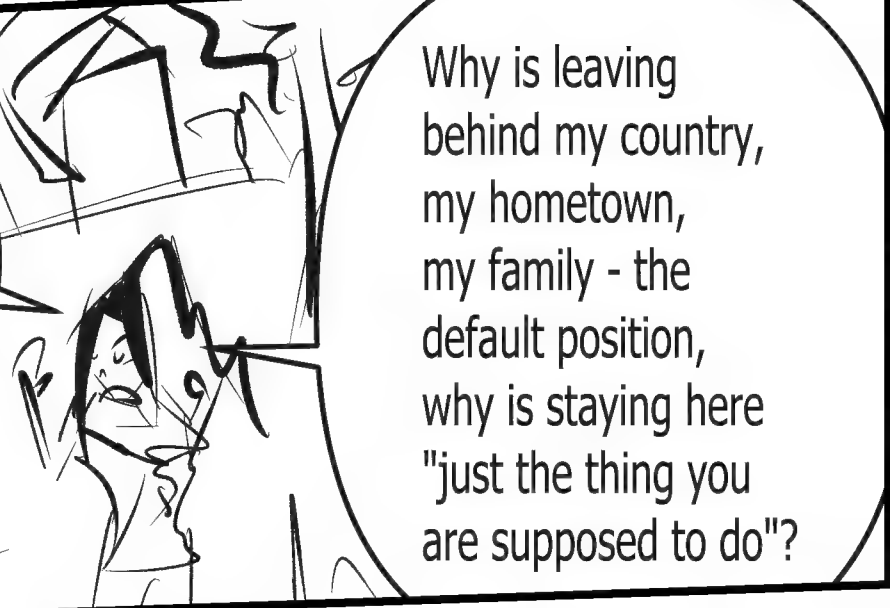
No, no,  
that's not  
what I  
mean!




It's not  
like I  
hate it  
here...  
There  
are many  
wonderful  
things here



But why do I have  
to allways qualify  
it, to justify it?!



Why is leaving  
behind my country,  
my hometown,  
my family - the  
default position,  
why is staying here  
"just the thing you  
are supposed to do"?



Now again  
it's like I'm  
being taught  
a lesson:



"You must live  
here forever"


"Not wanting  
to is just a  
character flaw  
you will overcome"





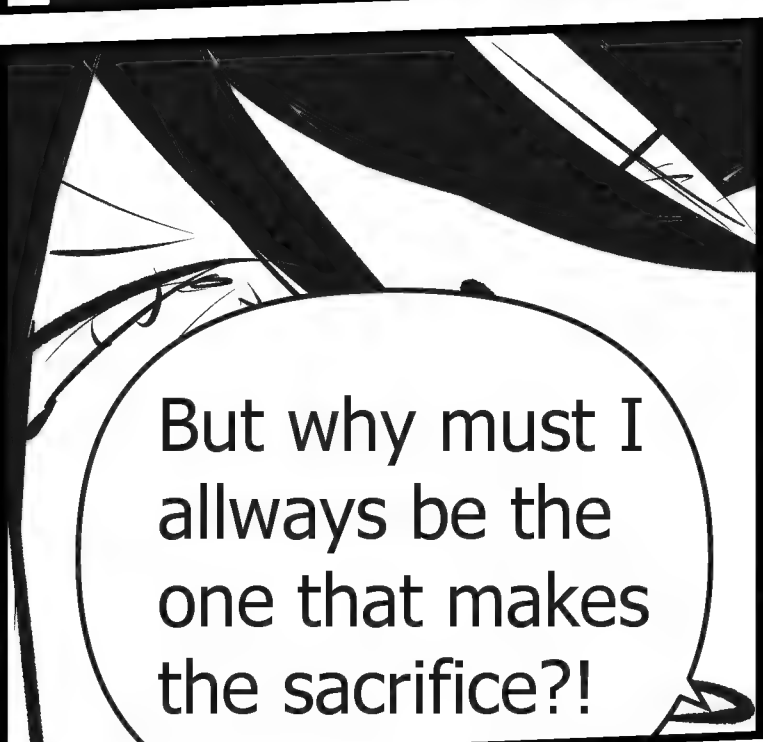
Do people really...

Maybe you mis-



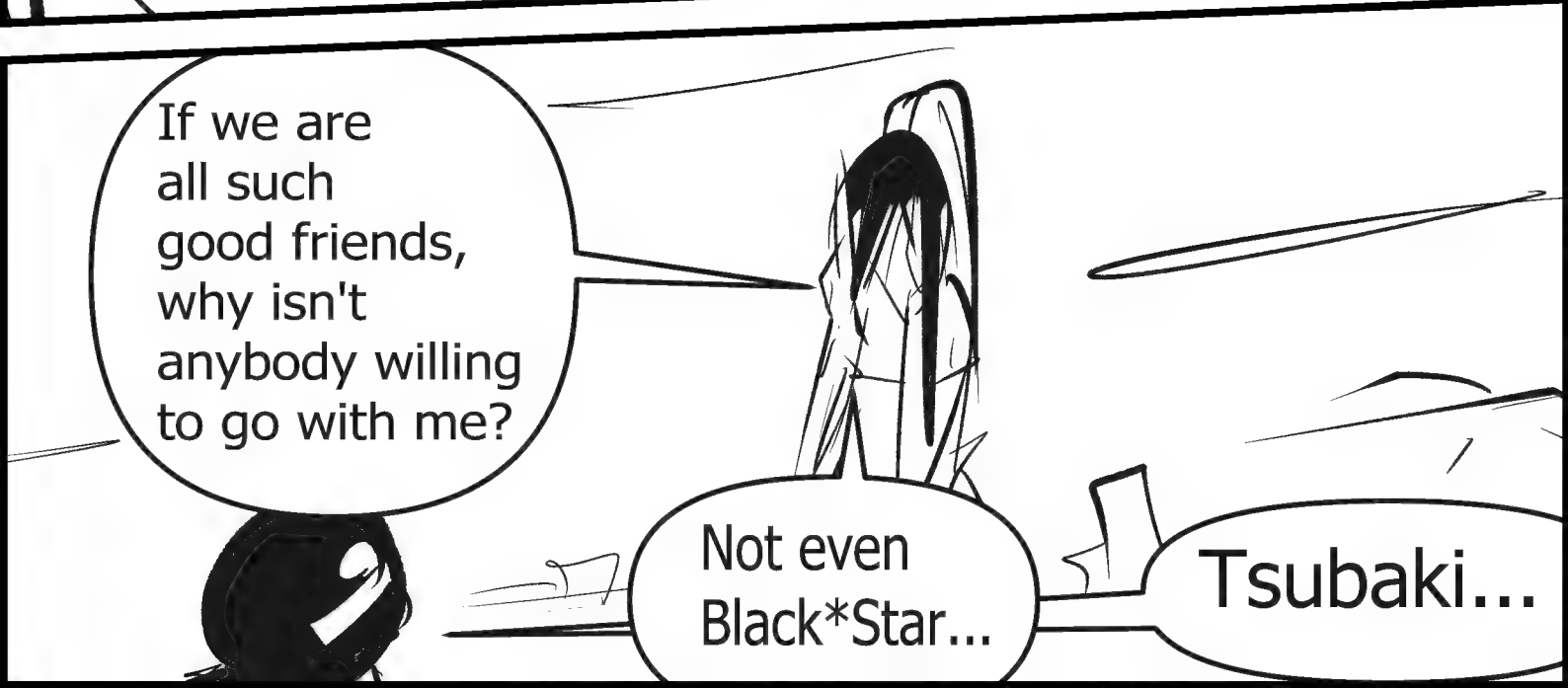
No they literally all say it:

"We, your friends, are all here, you wouldn't abandon us, would you?"



But why must I allways be the one that makes the sacrifice?!


To leave it all behind, to even suggest going back - met with mockery



If we are all such good friends, why isn't anybody willing to go with me?


Not even Black\*Star...

Tsubaki...




L-let me go  
with you...

w-what



Y-you  
really  
would...



Yeah...  
why  
not...



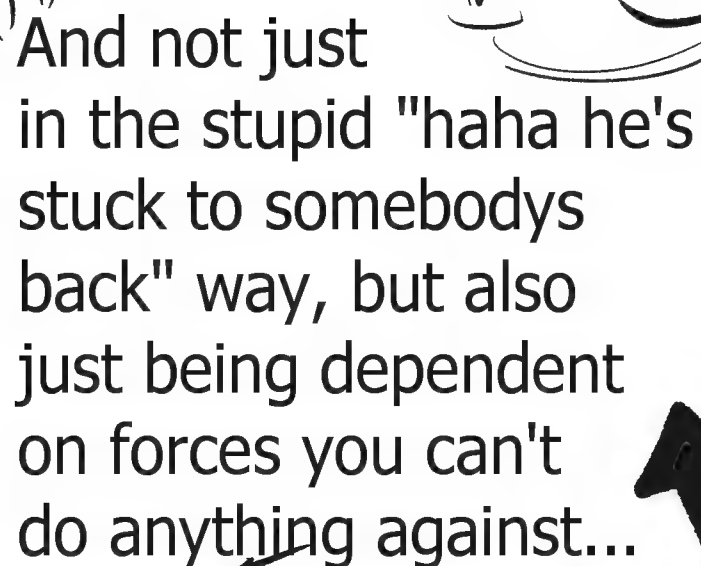
If...

I only could...




Oh...sorry,  
sometimes I  
forget...

Yeah I  
know how  
much it  
sucks to  
be stuck  
somewhere



And not just  
in the stupid "haha he's  
stuck to somebodys  
back" way, but also  
just being dependent  
on forces you can't  
do anything against...

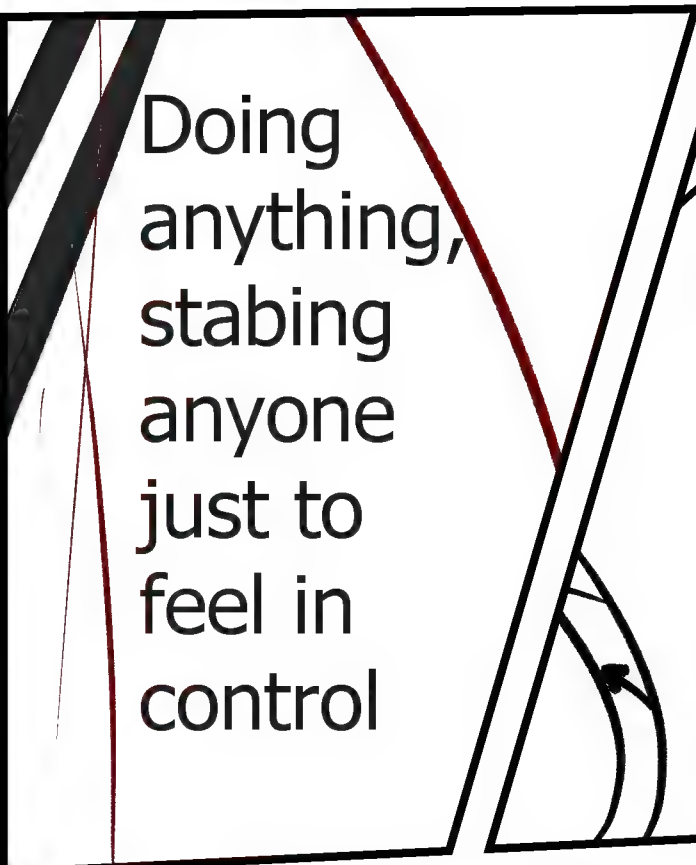
year after  
year feeling  
like a  
powerless  
freak



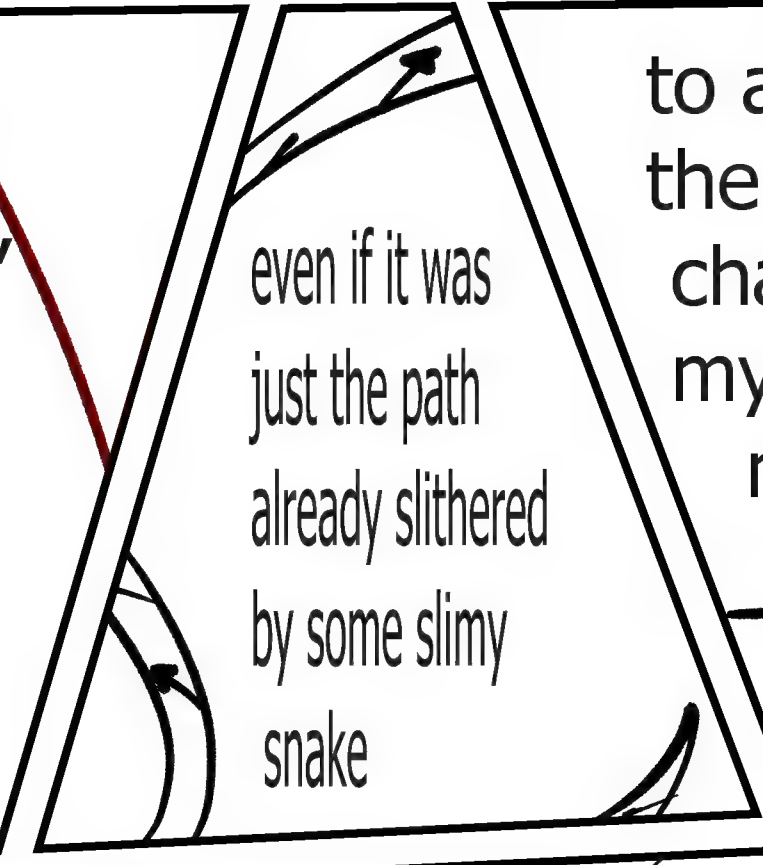
Savoring  
any moment  
of power,  
no matter  
by what  
cruelty



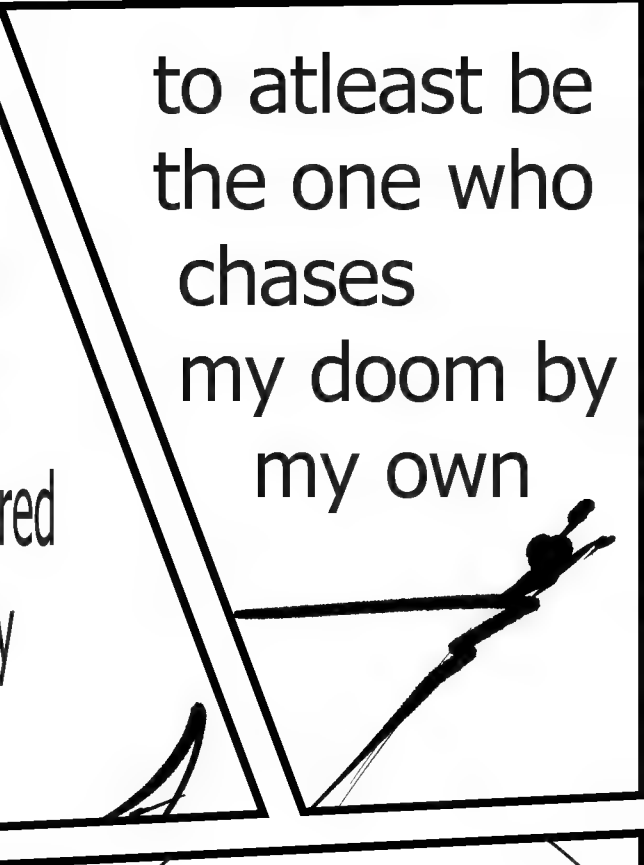
Doing  
anything,  
stabbing  
anyone  
just to  
feel in  
control




even if it was  
just the path  
already slithered  
by some slimy  
snake



to atleast be  
the one who  
chases  
my doom by  
my own




Even now, after  
all the shit I did,  
I'm kinda bound  
to be here




Can't really  
bully Crona  
to leave everything  
and buy tickets  
for Japan, got to  
soft for that






O-oh of course  
I didn't expect  
you to do something  
like that! It's good that  
you try to not hurt Crona  
as much anymore!




Tch yeah  
whatever,  
not like I  
still give  
others shit  
for no good  
reason

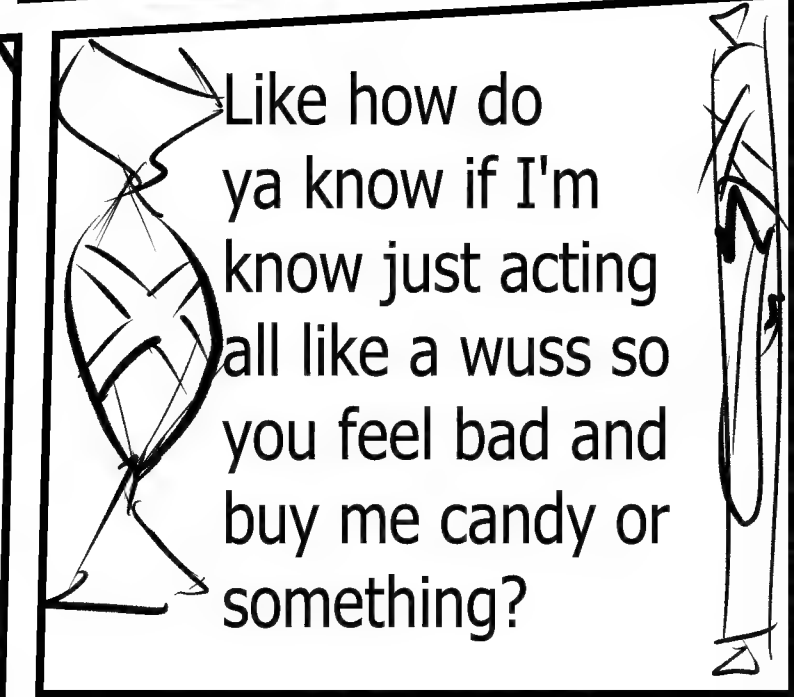
Guess that's my  
problem - now when  
I'm just a little angry  
chihuahua it's all just  
bark and no bite!  
And you can't teach  
an old dog new tricks



But that's  
not true,  
you already  
improved a  
lot Ragnarok

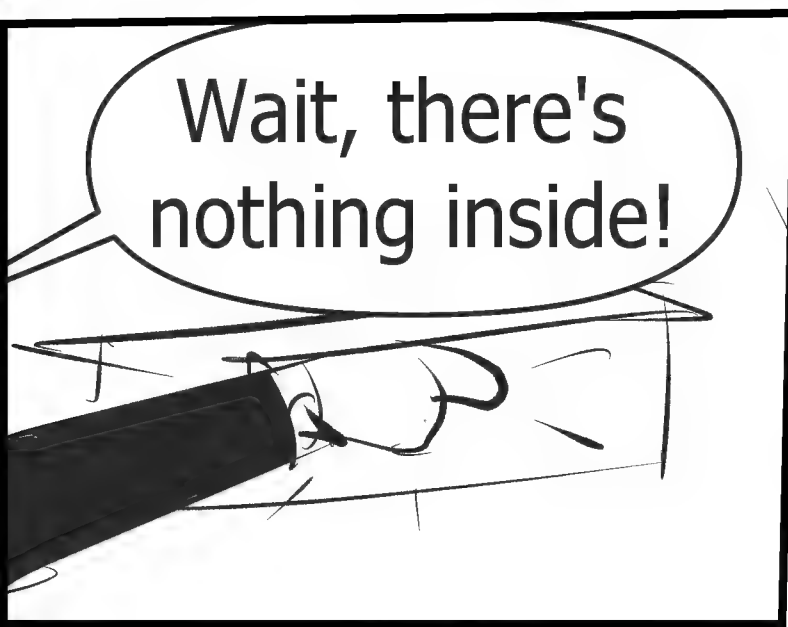
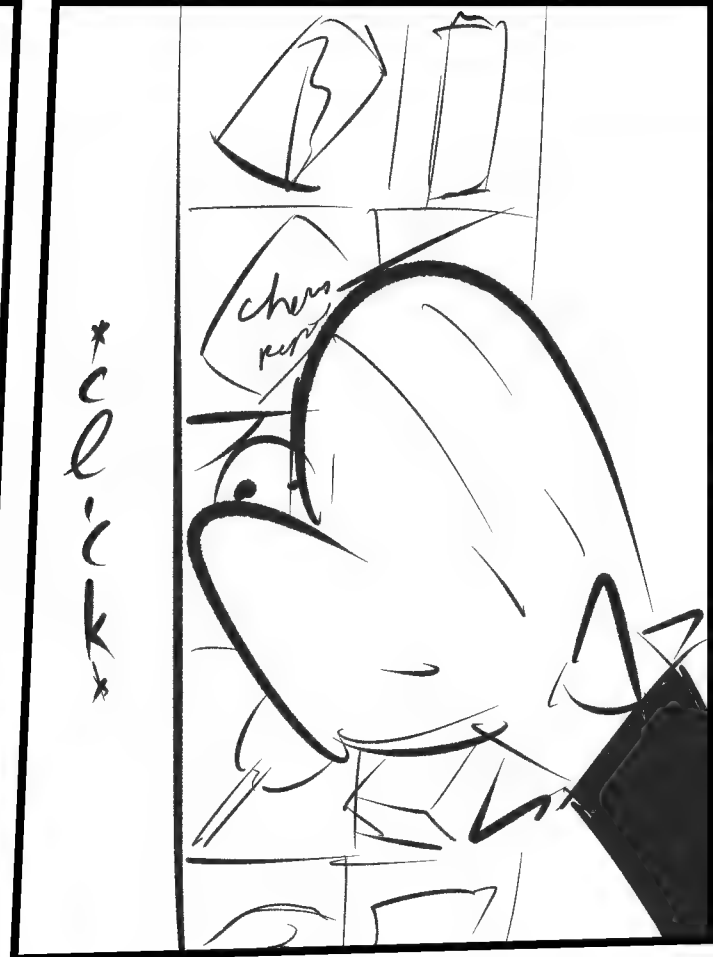


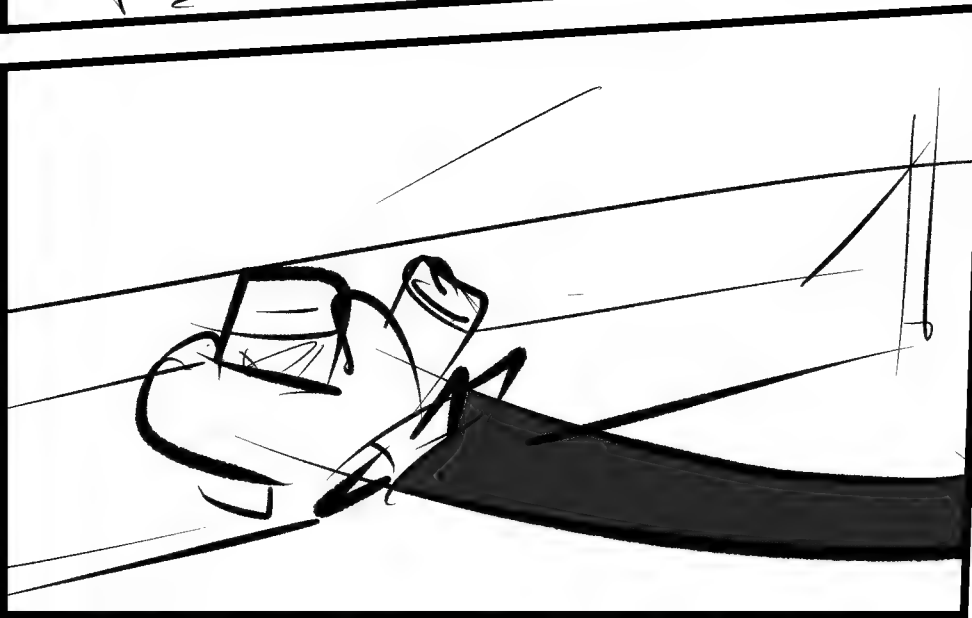
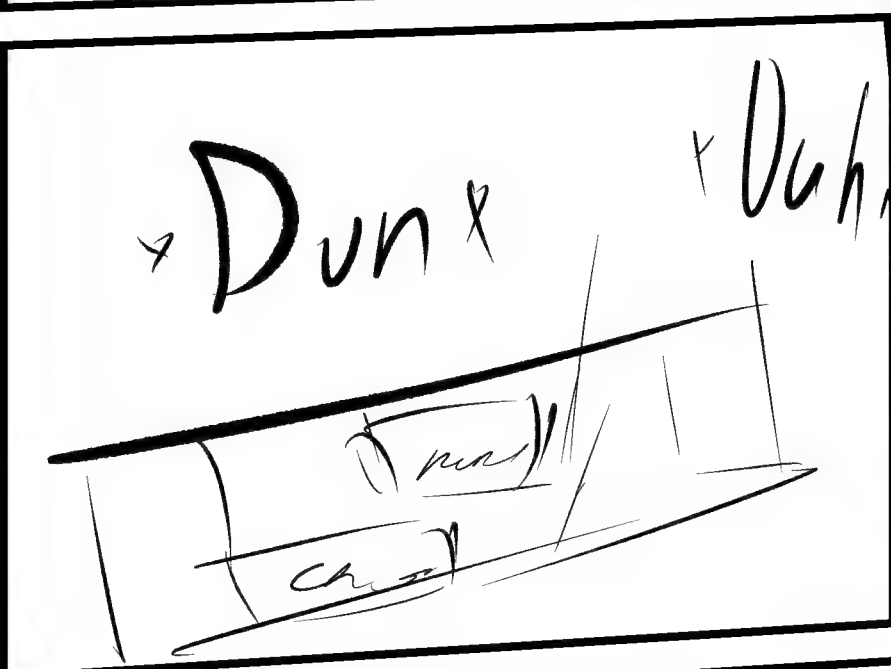
Heh, really, when  
even just hearing  
that sounds disgusting  
to me, guess I'm just  
rotten to the core hehe...



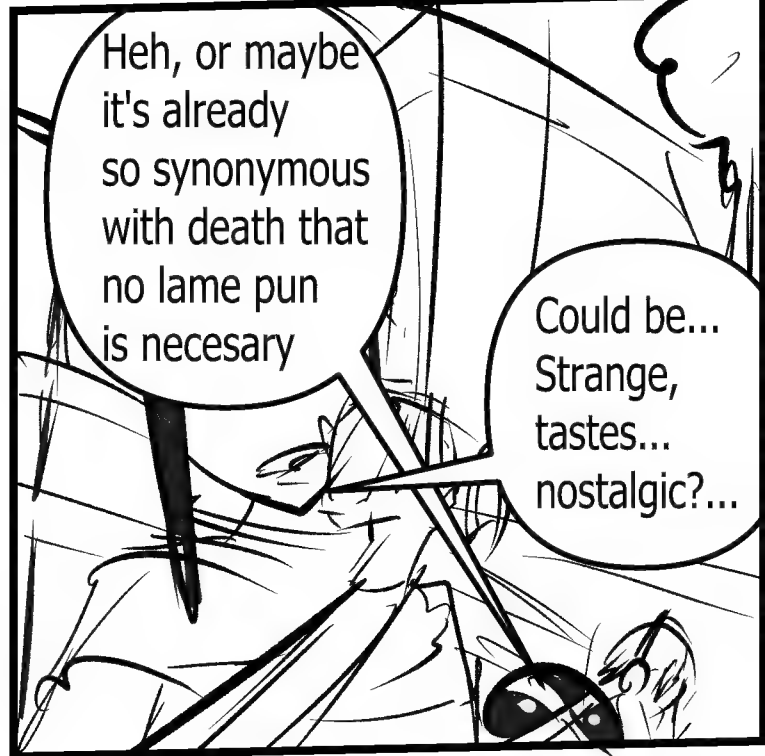
Like how do  
ya know if I'm  
know just acting  
all like a wuss so  
you feel bad and  
buy me candy or  
something?


















A character is shown from the chest up, with a large speech bubble coming from their mouth. The background is a simple sketch of a landscape with trees.

Now being  
an asshole  
only makes  
things harder  
for me!

A character is shown from the chest up, with a large speech bubble coming from their mouth. The background is a simple sketch of a landscape with trees.


Stuck in that  
role like you  
are in yours

A character is shown from the chest up, with a large speech bubble coming from their mouth. The background is a simple sketch of a landscape with trees.

Hehe, now  
I really sound  
like a whiny  
wimp heh...

A character is shown from the chest up, with a large speech bubble coming from their mouth. The background is a simple sketch of a landscape with trees.

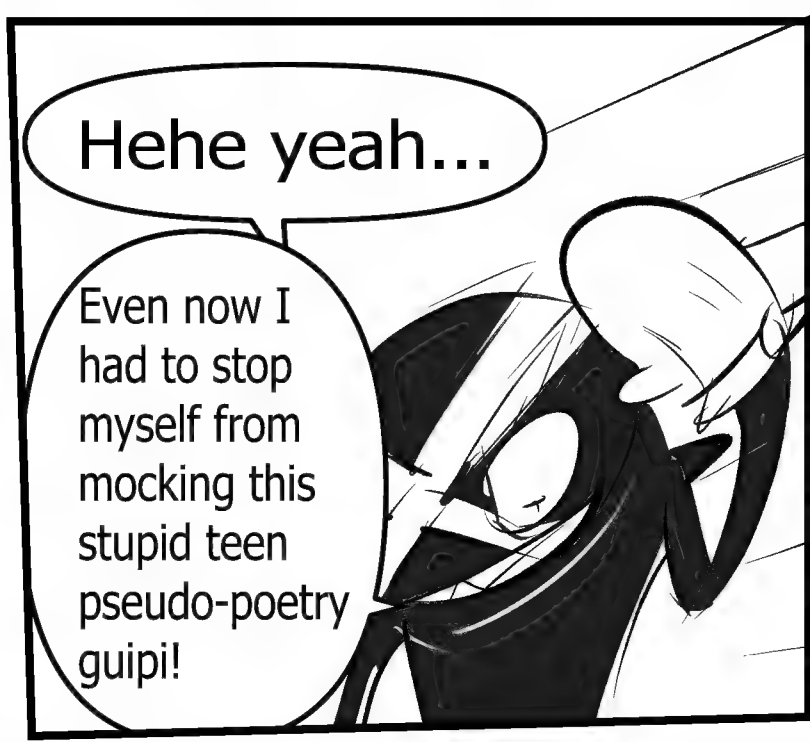
No it's okay...

A character is shown from the chest up, with a large speech bubble coming from their mouth. The background is a simple sketch of a landscape with trees.

We all wish that  
this play could stop  
and we could let of our  
masks just for a  
moment to grasp for air

A character is shown from the chest up, with a large speech bubble coming from their mouth. The background is a simple sketch of a landscape with trees.

Hehe yeah...

A character is shown from the chest up, with a large speech bubble coming from their mouth. The background is a simple sketch of a landscape with trees.

Even now I  
had to stop  
myself from  
mocking this  
stupid teen  
pseudo-poetry  
guipi!

A character is shown from the chest up, with a large speech bubble coming from their mouth. The background is a simple sketch of a landscape with trees.

♪.And with this in mind I still didn't quit

A character is shown from the chest up, with a large speech bubble coming from their mouth. The background is a simple sketch of a landscape with trees.


And that's how I know that I ain't shit.♪.




Say Ragnarok



hmm?




When you  
said you would  
go with me if  
you could...

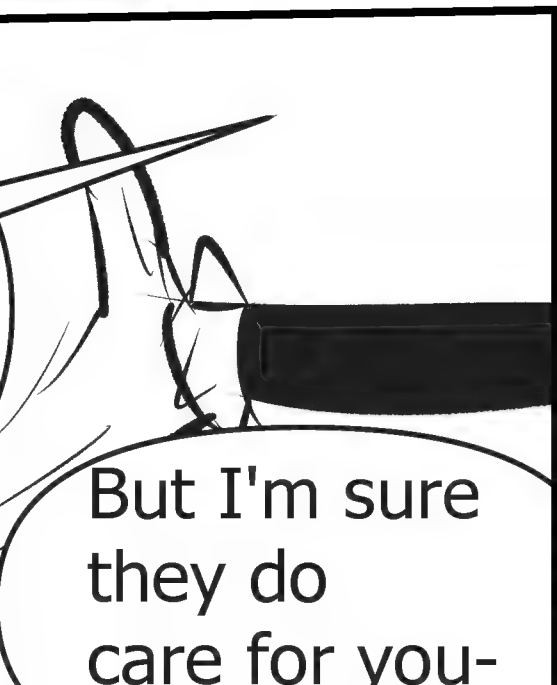


Did you mean it  
or was that also  
just a play?


Look, let's  
be real here:



I don't even know where  
I come from, have no home  
or country or whatever...  
Guess I have my "parents"  
now, but lets not kid ourselves...

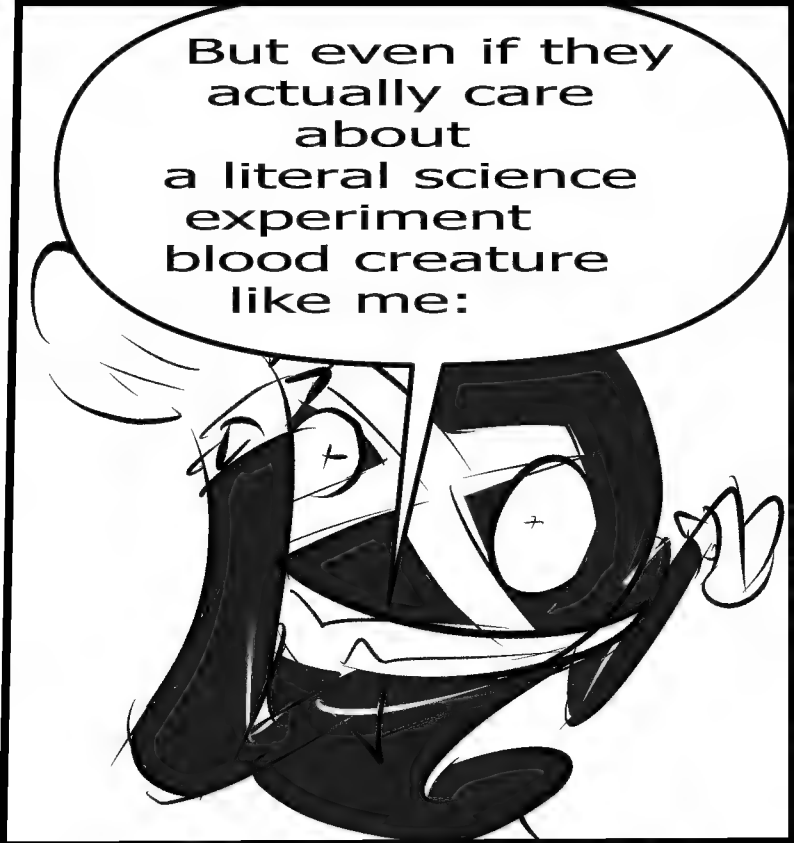


But I'm sure  
they do  
care for you-

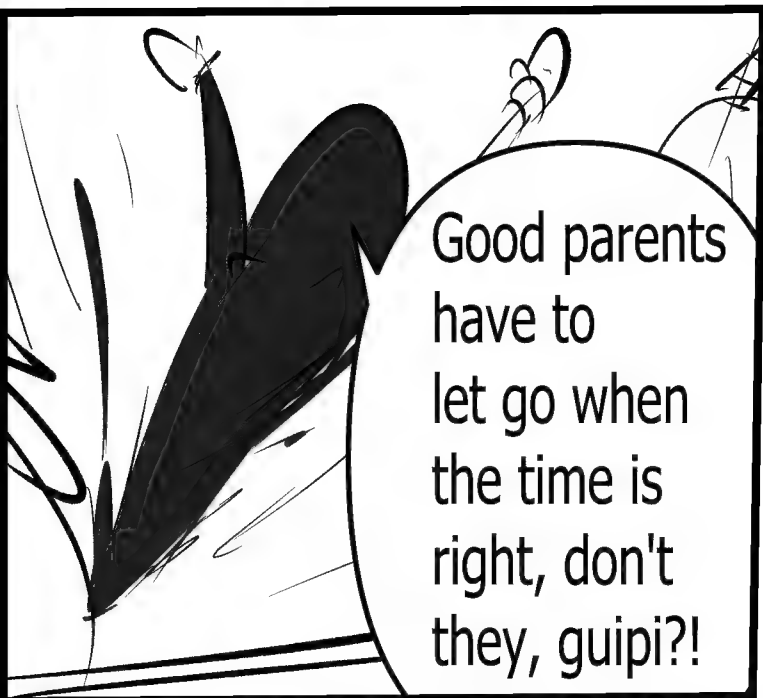


Heh, now do you  
really think that  
or is that the  
propper politness  
you have to put on?

I-I-



But even if they  
actually care  
about  
a literal science  
experiment  
blood creature  
like me:



Good parents  
have to  
let go when  
the time is  
right, don't  
they, guipi?!



S-so you mean-

I need to graduate  
from this prison first  
and somehow get this  
stick of pink bubble  
gum of me, but-



Yeah I would go with you, why not?





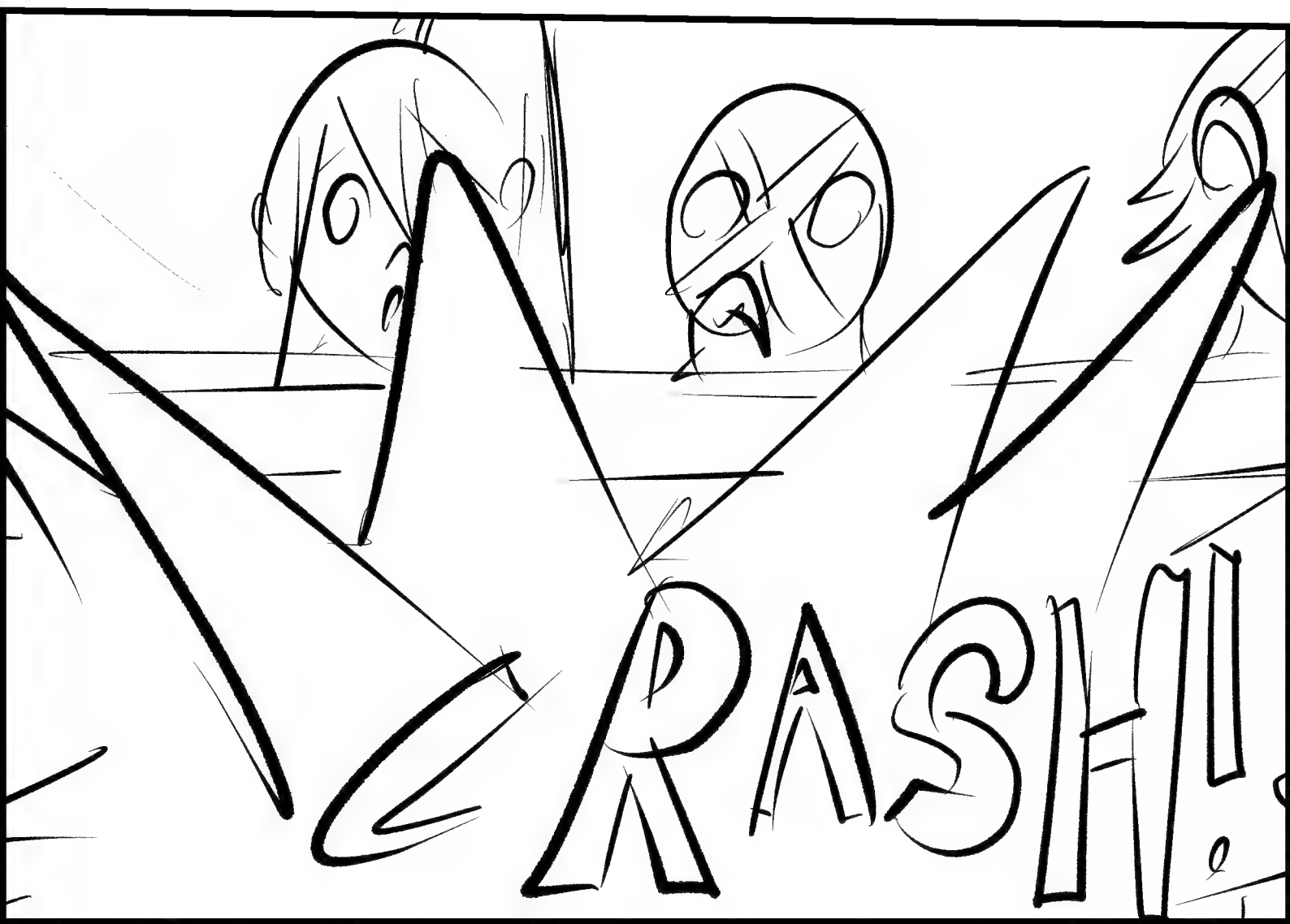
Really?...



I-I mean-

It's not like  
it's a big deal,  
right?

But nobody ever before has done that for me-










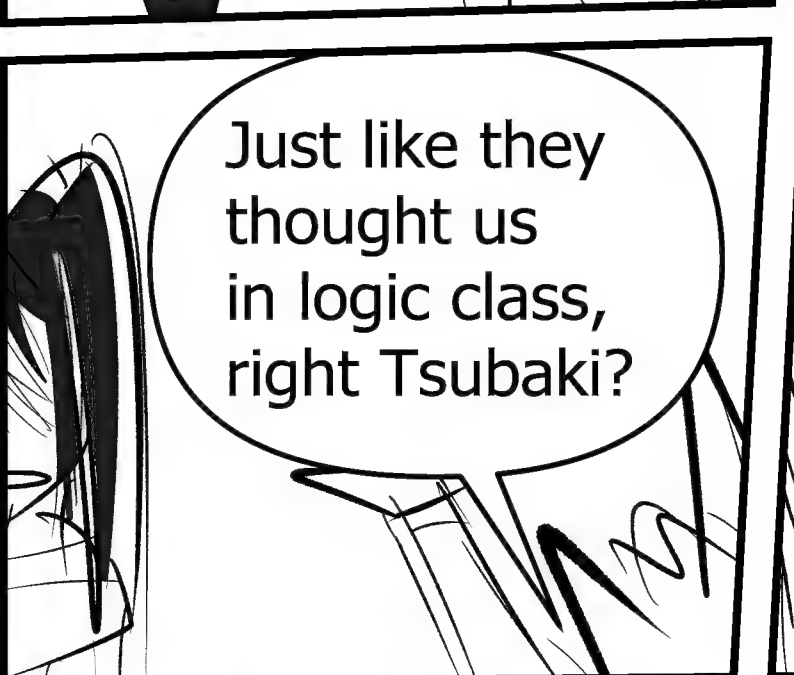


Yeez let him go


Maybe you just  
have as little  
taste as brain?



Haha, I'm the greatest,  
so whatever I dislike  
must suck by default!




Just like they  
thought us  
in logic class,  
right Tsubaki?




Silence is golden  
as they say!

With that  
cleared, time  
to go!

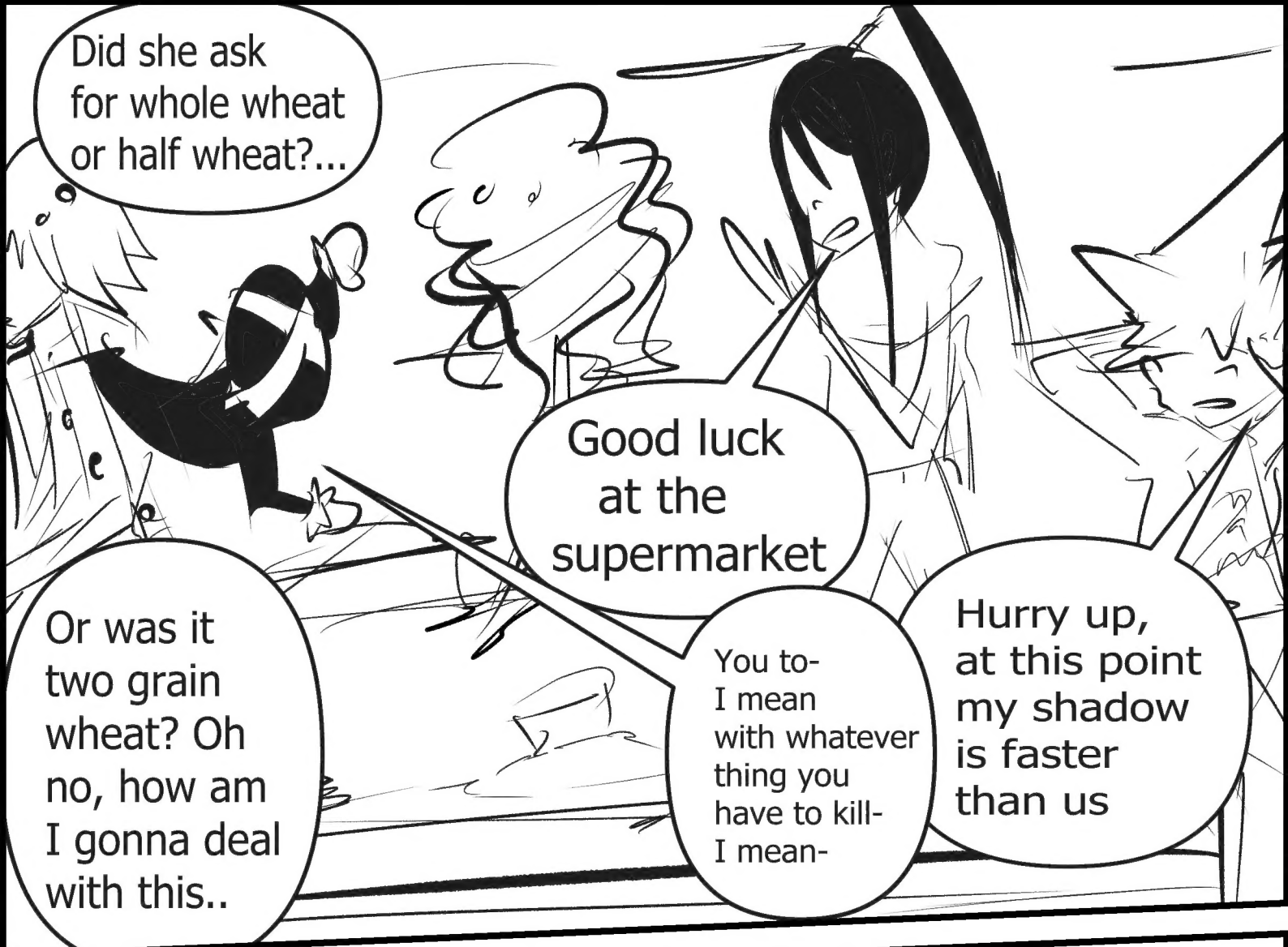


What? You  
can't just  
decide that,  
I'm still-



I already  
took the  
mission





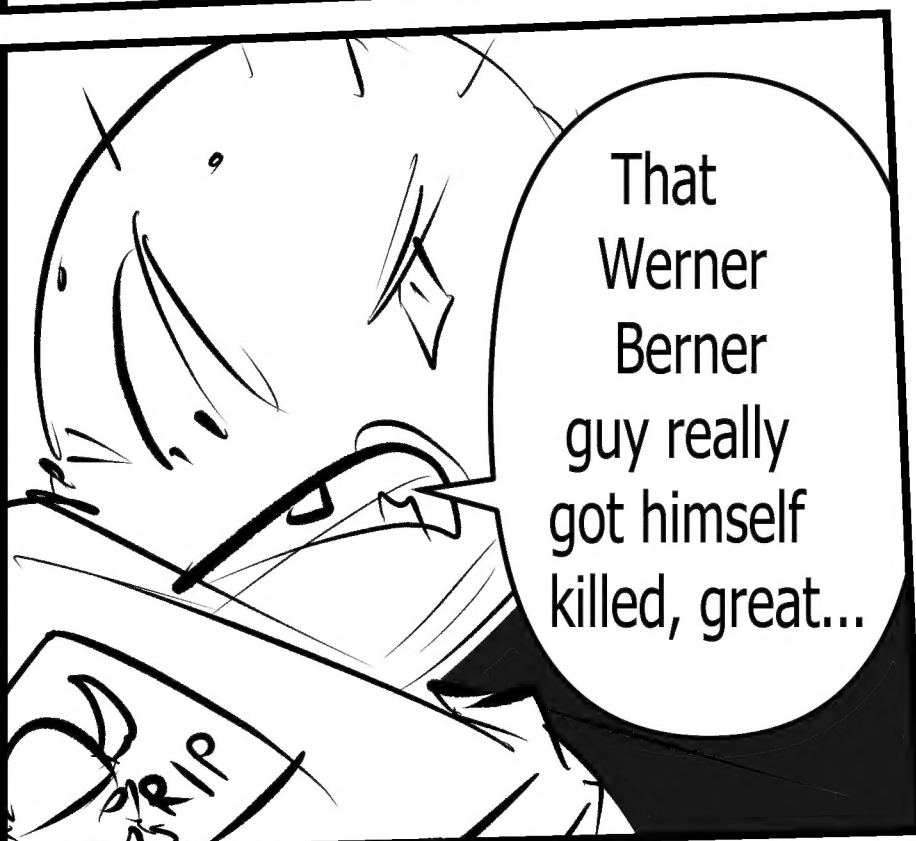
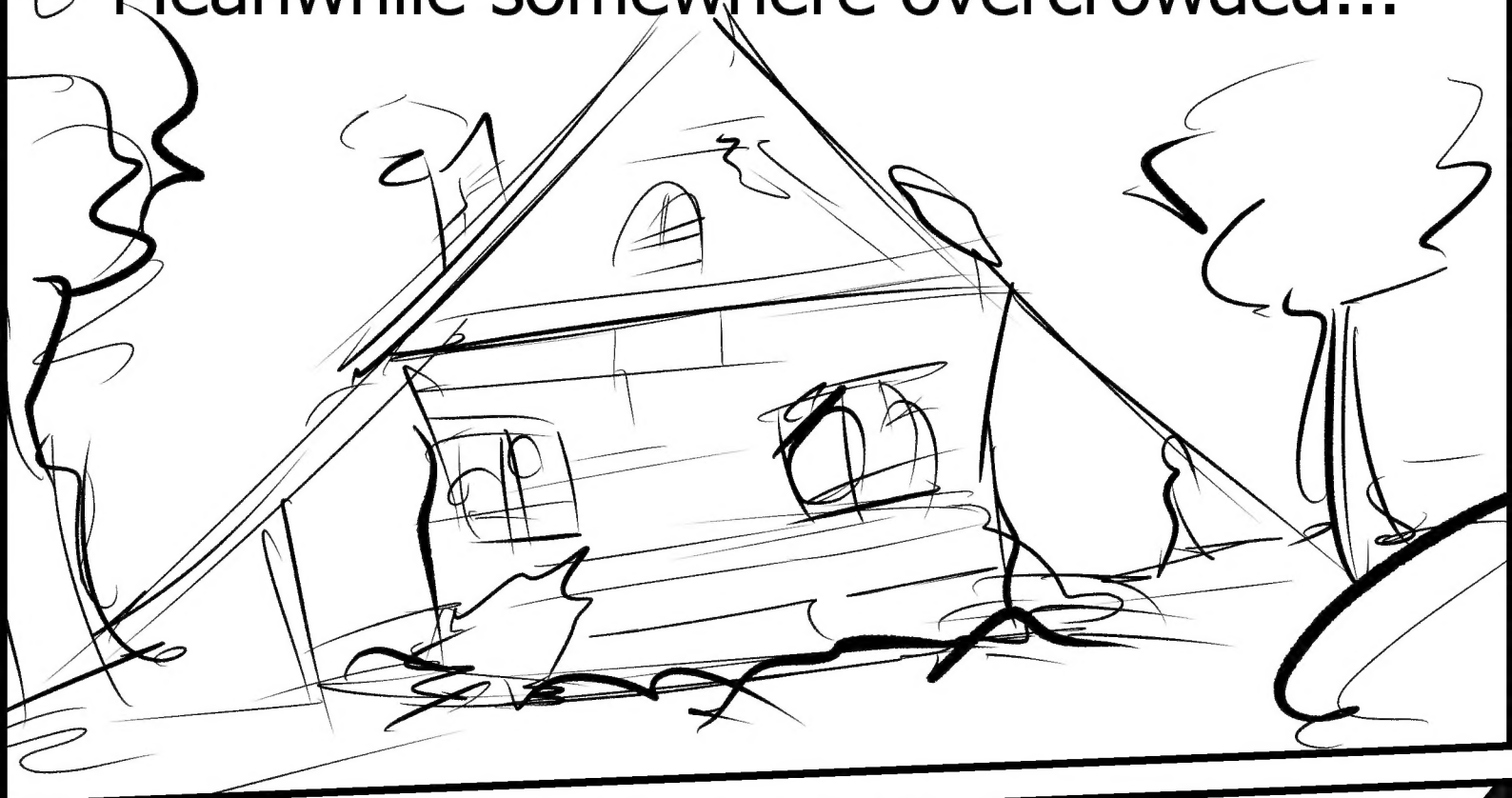
Till we meet again,  
because...



Just for the moment  
we are stuck...



Meanwhile somewhere overcrowded...



That  
Werner  
Berner  
guy really  
got himself  
killed, great...



So-sorry

I tried to  
stop him  
but-



Tch, heh don't  
sweat it

Nothing can  
keep a swede  
from destroying  
a family!



Are you kidding us?  
How can you be so  
nonchalant, what if  
they connect this back  
to us, huh?!?



Now Haia didn't come  
back from her mission  
too, the DWMA is  
probably at the door  
already!

We'll be the  
next ones to  
sleep with the  
fishes!



Haha, don't overblow  
things out of proportion  
like it's the historical  
amount of witch burnings



What are  
you implying!!?


Remember, we are not  
vicitms but actors! Some  
just seem to act out of  
order hehe!



But for  
us witches,

that is  
only a plus

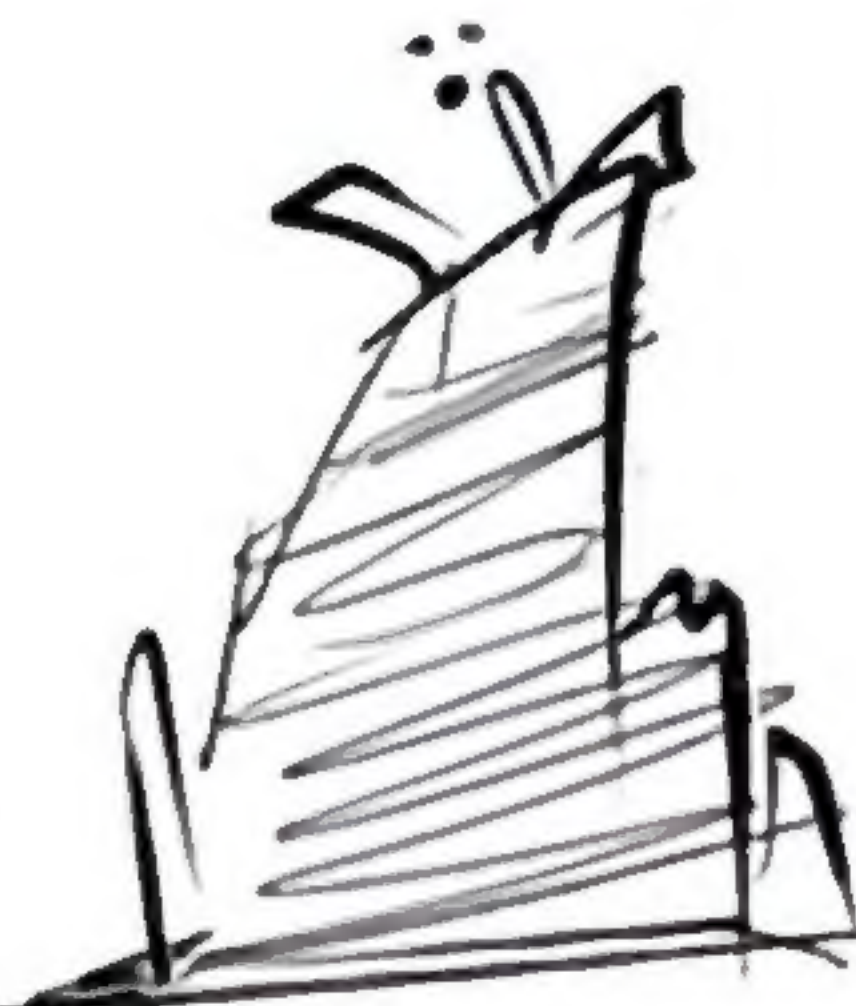





Let's look  
at it that  
way...

They won't  
expect a  
large attack right  
after a little  
one...

If we time it right...




with the deployment  
of meisters to missions...



Then our little invasion  
may be ready as soon  
as a few days!

And the power  
that even surpasses  
the kishin...

Will be in our grasp!



Yes the terrible  
secret of Maka  
Albarn...

CHAPTER  
23 END